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How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

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How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

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How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

IN MY CLASS-ROOM, AFTER SCHOOL HOURS

LAST NIGHT, I COMPLETED A PROJECT PROPOSAL.

AND SO, IT STARTS WHEN THE PROTAGONIST CROSS-DRESSES AS A GIRL AND GOES TO AN ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL.

A FLOWERY "AURA" APPEARS BEHIND HER.

MAIN HEROINE

MAKE HER THE BEST LOOKING CHARACTER.

MY NAME IS TOMOYA AKI. NOW I'M MAKING A PRESENTATION TO TRY TO CONVINCE SOME PEOPLE TO JOIN A CLUB.

THE MAIN CHARACTER IS

THE REASON BEING...

PERA

THERE'S THE "GOD REALM," "DEVIL REALM," AND "HUMAN REALM"...

PERA (GAB)

PERA

THE QUEEN COMES DOWN FROM THE MOON TO STAY WITH THIS FAMILY...

ON AN ISLAND THAT'S ABOUT AN HOUR AWAY...

HEY.

ALSO, TECHNOLOGY IS ADVANCED HERE, SO THE PROTAGONIST HAS THREE MAID ROBOTS IN HIS HOUSE.

YOU KNOW...

GI (GRIT)

...COULD YOU...

How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

CHAPTER 1

NOT SO LOUD!
YOU'LL DISTURB EVERYONE AROUND...
...ERIRI!
TOYOGASAKI PRIVATE ACADEMY, SECOND-YEAR
ERIRI SPENCER SAWAMURA
Eriri

GAAH! I'M BEGGING YOU! YOU ONLY HAVE TO DESIGN THE MAIN HEROINE, PLEASE!

WELL, I'M LEAVING! YOU CALL ME HERE OUT OF THE BLUE TO FORM SOME INCOM-PREHEN-SIBLE CLUB—

I'M READY TO FLIP OUT ON YOU!

THIS FROM SOMEONE WHO'S BEEN GOING ON AND ON FOREVER ABOUT SOME FAIRY TALE AT THE TOP OF HIS LUNGS?

WHOA ...

HAVE I BEEN AT IT THAT LONG ...?

IT'S BEEN ABOUT 30 MINUTES.

GRAH!

HAD A BAD EX-PERIENCE WITH THAT...?

WHAT IS THIS— SOME SPECIAL ISSUE FOR GUEST CONTRIB-UTORS ONLY!? GEEZ, YOU MAKE ME SICK!

QUIT ADDING CRAP TO THE BRIEF!

YOU'RE THE ART CLUB'S ACE— I NEED YOUR TALENTS !!

AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, ALSO DESIGN THE SUB-HEROINES, AND DO THE ORIGINAL ROUGHS FOR ALL THE OTHER CHAR-ACTERS, AND DO ALL THE PAINTING, INCLUDING THE BACK-GROUNDS AS A FREE BONUS...

KIII (SKREE)

!

SAWA-MURA-SAN?

... WHOSE VOICE WAS THAT ...?

SHARAN (SPARKLE)

FU (TURN)

GOOD DAY TO YOU.

ADIEU UNTIL TOMORROW, LADIES!

HOWAAAAA (BLUSH)

BYE-BYE, SAWAMURA-SAN!

SEE YOU TOMORROW!

MAIN HEROINE MODE, HUH?

I'M ALWAYS AMAZED BY HER QUICK CHANGE OF CHARACTER.

HAAH...

YOU KNOW, AREN'T YOU BEING NAIVE, THINKING A CONSUMER OTAKU WITH NO REDEEMING TRAITS LIKE YOU CAN JUST MAKE A GAME OUT OF NOWHERE?

OH...! SO IT'S BACK TO THE PREVIOUS CONVERSATION...

GATHERING PEOPLE, FORCING THEM TO WORK FOR YOU, WAVING YOUR FLAG AROUND ...

...I THOUGHT YOU HATED THOSE KINDS OF DOUJIN EXPLOITERS!

!

WATCH WHAT YOU SAY! DON'T LUMP ME IN WITH THEM!

DAN (WHAM)

THIS OVER-FLOWING PASSION IN ME— I'VE GOT TWICE AS MUCH DRIVE AS ANYBODY!

IN OTHER WORDS ...

...THIS IS A PROJECT THAT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT ME!

AAA-AAHH! THAT'S SO MEAN!

POI (TOSS)

NOBODY WANTS TO MAKE THAT!

SA (SHWUP)

GUSHA (CRUMPLE)

GUSHA

KIRA (SPARKLE)

KIRA

THAT IS TRULY MAIN HEROINE MODE!

AND YET SO AWESOME! ALL YOU DID WAS THROW AWAY SOME GARBAGE, BUT THIS LOOKS JUST LIKE A GAME SCREEN!

It's ten years too soon for me to be put in charge of art direction!

AAH

...

!

自治会の独断

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL'S DECISIONS

R-REFUSE, AND I WON'T LEND YOU THE FINAL VOLUME OF THE "NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL'S DECISIONS" BLU-RAY!

YOU KEPT ME ADDICTED UNTIL RIGHT BEFORE THE END...

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE THAT INTO IT!

...AND NOW YOU'RE KICKING ME OFF THE LADDER OUT OF THE BLUE!? THAT'S THE LOWEST!

W-WELL, I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY DEPRIVED YOU BEFORE, HAVE I?

AND IS "KICKING SOMEONE OFF THE LADDER" A POPULAR IDIOM?

CALM DOWN, BOTH OF YOU.

WHA—?

AAH!

SENPAI!

WHY ARE YOU ACTING LIKE YOU GUYS THOUGHT YOU WERE ALONE HERE?

TOYOGASAKI PRIVATE ACADEMY, THIRD-YEAR

UTAHA KASUMIGAOKA

S-SENPAI! ...

WELL, IF I MAY START AT THE CONCLUSION, I FULLY AGREE WITH SAWAMURA-SAN'S OPINION.

I DECLINE.

POI

SHE WANTS ME TO UNFOLD IT MYSELF...! ALSO, SHE GOT MY NAME WRONG!

RINRI-KUN...

ちょ

いよ

CHOI

?

MY GRAND PLAN, CRUSHED BY ERIRI AND REJECTED... NOW I'M BEING FORCED TO FLATTEN IT OUT.

THERE'S DEMAND FOR THIS KIND OF HEROINE TOO, BUT, STILL...

AAWWW!

...SHE'S REALLY MEAN...

GASA (RUSTLE) GASA

RINRI-KUN...

...I HAD A QUICK LOOK OVER YOUR PROJECT PROPOSAL.

IF I WAS TO GIVE IT A POINT SCORE...

IT'S TOMOYA.

ACK!

DO (STAB)

...I'D GIVE IT ZERO POINTS.

AHJJHH (BZZZ)

HELLO?

URGH!

DO

ALL I SEE HERE ARE THINGS SCRAPED TOGETHER THAT I'VE ALREADY SEEN ELSE-WHERE.

P-PLEASE STOP... YOUR ICY WORDS ARE LIKE POISONED SPEARS!

MAYBE YOU'RE JUST MINDLESSLY REGURGI-TATING THE PLOT OF WHATEVER YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING RECENTLY?

IT'S A COMPLETE HODGE-PODGE.

THIS IS APPARENTLY A TRUE STORY ABOUT A CERTAIN GAME COMPANY, BUT...

SU (SFP)

B-BUT WITHOUT ME, THIS PROJECT WOULD BE...

UGH...

...SOMEBODY APPROACHED THEM WITH A GAME PROPOSAL, SAYING NO ONE BUT THEM COULD DO IT, THAT THE LIKES OF THEIR GAME HAD NEVER BEEN SEEN BEFORE, AND A LONG LIST OF OTHER BOASTS.

HUH...?

I FEEL LIKE I SAID THAT BEFORE ...

I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN MAKE THIS PROPOSAL A REALITY!

THIS WILL BE THE GAME THAT PLAYERS HAVE TRULY BEEN WAITING FOR!

BUT WHEN THEY OPENED THE LID ON IT...

Rapid development by way of

Interestin interactio

Childhoo friend

Kid sister

...THERE WAS "THE MEDDLESOME CHILDHOOD FRIEND WHO COMES OVER IN THE MORNING TO WAKE UP THE HERO." THERE WAS "THE FRESH-FACED, SHORT-HAIRED ATHLETE GIRL." THERE WAS "THE MATURE-BUT-CLINGY KID SISTER." THERE WERE "INTERESTING INTERACTIONS." THERE WERE "DEPICTIONS OF AFFECTION AFTER THEY START DATING." THERE WAS "RAPID DEVELOPMENT IN THE ENDGAME AND SALVATION BY WAY OF DEUS EX MACHINA."

YOU SEE? A HODGE-PODGE.

GAH! ENOUGH! THAT'S ENOUGH!

GOCCHAAAAA (MESSY)

あーあーあちゃっ

GATA (KTAK)

SEN-PAI...

WELL... I HAVEN'T BEEN INVOLVED WITH ONE OF YOUR SERIOUS OTAKU ACTIVITIES FOR A LONG WHILE, RINRI-KUN, AND I DO FEEL THAT I'D LIKE TO HELP YOU OUT, BUT...

FIVE SIMILAR TITLES POPPED INTO MY HEAD JUST HEARING ABOUT IT.

HOW IS ANY OF THAT TRAIL-BLAZING ...?

IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T NOT FEEL THAT I CAN'T SAY THAT I'M NOT WITHOUT SYMPATHY.

IF I COUNT YOUR NEGATIVES CALMLY, YOU DON'T WANT TO HELP ME, HUH?

IT SOUNDED LIKE YOU WERE WITH ME, BUT YOU'RE ACTUALLY KILLING ME!

KARI (SPTCH)

PLEASE! JUST DO THE MAIN HEROINE'S DIALOGUE SAMPLES. AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, JUST A TINY BIT OF THE SUB-HEROINES' PLOTS, AND THE SCENARIOS FOR ALL THE CHARACTERS... AND THE SCRIPT WITH FULL STAGE DIRECTIONS AS A FREE BONUS...

YOU'RE THE TOP BRAIN IN THE SCHOOL EVERY YEAR, AND YOU WHIP OFF SCRIPTS FOR THE DRAMA CLUB LIKE IT'S NOTHING— SENPAI, I NEED YOUR LITERARY TALENTS!

NUOOOOOOO (PLEAD)

ぬ

お お お お

TOO MUCH EXPOSITION IN THE LAST HALF. THERE REALLY IS NO WAY YOU COULD WRITE SCENARIOS, HUH, RINRI-KUN?

お お お お

THIS WORLD YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT— IS IT ALWAYS THIS CRUEL TO ME!?

HOW DARE YOU! YOU'RE SO IRRITAT-ING!

HANG ON, YOU TWO! DON'T YOU TRY GOING OFF INTO A WORLD OF YOUR OWN!

GO (DOOM)

HA (GASP)

WHAT!?

OH, MY. YOU'RE STILL HERE?

I THOUGHT YOU'D LEFT HIM FOR DEAD AND WENT HOME AGES AGO.

...UHH... UHHH...

THAT IS THE THING I DISLIKE ABOUT YOU.

OOOOOOOOO (RUMBLE)

I DON'T DISLIKE THAT ABOUT YOU.

YOU ACT RANDOM, BUT YOU'RE STILL KIND, AREN'T YOU?

THIS IS BAD...!

Utaha: Exactly who was it that intruded into this world for two in the first place anyway?
Eriri: Yeah. I was the one who announced I wasn't going to be involved first, so why don't you stop just playing copycat and giving him grief, huh?

THESE TWO ARE FAR TOO FRIENDLY ...

...BUT ONLY IN A CERTAIN SENSE, OF COURSE.

Huhn? I've got no idea what you're talking about!

Sawamura-san, you really have no sense of judgment, do you?

...IT'S GOING TO START UP—

SO IF I DON'T STOP THIS QUICK...

THE HEROINE CATFIGHT EVENT!
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS UTAHA KASUMIGAOKA OF ALL PEOPLE DOING HERE ANYWAY!?
WELL, I DO GO TO SCHOOL HERE, SO WHAT'S STRANGE ABOUT THAT?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN, AND YOU KNOW IT!
YOU REALLY WANT TO BE ALONE WITH HIM THAT BADLY? DID YOU HAVE SOME STRANGE FANTASY ABOUT THIS?

LET ME WARN YOU— I'M NOT GETTING INTO ANY TRASHY MIND GAMES WITH YOU!

SAWAMURA-SAN, THAT LINE SOUNDS VERY LAME COMING FROM YOU ALL WORKED UP LIKE THAT.

KAAAAAA (BLUSH)

I JUST LIVE MY LIFE AT FULL POWER!

BAN (WHAM)

DON'T USE THAT AS AN EXCUSE TO BREAK DOORS.

IT'S NOT BROKEN! IT JUST MADE A LOUD NOISE!

H-HEY! HANG ON A MINUTE!

.....

HOW UNFORTUNATE THAT NEITHER OF THEM WOULD HELP YOU.

.....

HAAAAAH...

あ あ は あ あ あ

SO MY PROPOSAL... IS OUT ...?

GAKU (SLUMP)

?

GUI CYOINKO

...OH! I'M SORRY! DIDN'T NOTICE YOU WERE HERE.

WELL, THEY'VE GOT A WHOLE OTHER AURA ABOUT THEM.

THE TWO OF THEM ARE SUPER-FAMOUS IN THIS SCHOOL.

YEAH, WELL, WITH THOSE TWO IN THE ROOM, YOU'RE PRACTI-CALLY A NON-ENTITY.

YEAH, I KNOW.

YOU REALLY FORGOT ABOUT ME, HUH?

AURAS, HUH...?

PLUS, YOU SEEM TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER PRETTY WELL.

AND IT'S TOTALLY AMAZING THAT YOU ACTUALLY KNOW THEM, AKI-KUN.

ERIRI SPENCER SAWAMURA

TO DESCRIBE HER IN THREE POINTS— SHE'S HALF-JAPANESE (MOTHER), HALF-ENGLISH (FATHER), AND RAISED IN JAPAN! SHE'S VERY LADYLIKE AT SCHOOL AND POPULAR! BUT HER TRUE NATURE IS SAVAGE AND EMOTIONAL!

AND AS FOR FEELING SOME KIND OF SUPERIORITY ABOUT IT... LIKE, "IT'S THE SIDE OF HERSELF SHE ONLY SHOWS TO ME"— NO WAY! SHE IS A CRUEL WOMAN.

UTAHA KASUMI-GAOKA

TO DESCRIBE HER IN THREE POINTS AS WELL— SHE'S ONE GRADE HIGHER THAN ME! SHE'S A COLD, OBJECTIVE BEAUTY WHOSE EXPRESSION DOESN'T CHANGE MUCH! BUT SHE HAS A CONSIDERABLY SHARP TONGUE!

AND AS FOR FEELING SOME KIND OF SENSE OF SUPERIORITY ABOUT— YEAH, NO WAY! I'D BE A DEAD MAN.

?

MM. BEHIND THEM, THEY ALWAYS HAVE THIS—

THEY'D MAKE PERFECT GAME CHARAC-TERS. THEY CERTAINLY DO HAVE HEROINE-LIKE AURAS ...

?

?

I CAN'T PICTURE IT ON HER! THE DATING SIM CHARACTER INTRO BACKGROUND DESIGN THAT SHOWS UP BEHIND THE OTHER TWO!

...WELL, THAT WAS A DRY PARTING LINE.

I'VE GOT SOME ERRANDS TO RUN.

I GOT A PHONE CALL JUST BEFORE

WELL, I GUESS IT'S TIME TO HEAD OFF, HUH?

INDEED... THE WHOLE REASON I CAME UP WITH THIS PROJECT—

IT WAS ...

YOU CAN'T JUST ACT NORMAL! YOU'RE GOING TO BE THE MAIN HEROINE!

IN A DATING SIM!

OH? I THOUGHT I WAS JUST BEING NORMAL.

LIKE THIS!
...TO MAKE THIS BORING GIRL INTO THE MAIN HEROINE OF A DATING SIM!

HUH ...?

HER NAME IS MEGUMI KATOU.

WE'VE BEEN IN THE SAME GRADE IN THE SAME SCHOOL FOR OVER A YEAR, BUT UNTIL A MONTH AGO, SHE HAD MADE NO IMPRESSION ON ME WHATSOEVER.

THIS IS THE TALE OF THE DAYS IN WHICH MEGUMI AND I FIGHT OUR BATTLE...

(Gu (TUG)

...TO CREATE A GAME WHERE THIS FORGET-TABLE CLASSMATE TAKES ON THE ROLE OF MAIN HEROINE.

YES...THE WAY SHE LOOKED THAT DAY...

THE DOOR REALLY IS BROKEN. IT'S GOT TO BE FIXED.

THE HANDLE'S OFF.

TRY TO BREAK A DOOR DOWN SOMETIME TOO. IT'S CHARACTER BUILDING.

END

How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

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CHAPTER 2

...JUST PAST THE MIDDLE OF SPRING BREAK, ON A STREET LINED WITH CHERRY BLOSSOM TREES...

IT WAS ABOUT A MONTH AGO...

FINISHED DELIVERING THE MORNING PAPERS!

NOW I'M ONE STEP CLOSER TO THE "IMPERIAL GOLION BLU-RAY BOX SET"!

FLUTTERING! NICE AND WARM! THE BALMY SUN!

THE NEN●●ROID IS ONLY AVAILABLE WITH THE FIRST EDITION, AND I WAS DESPERATE, SO—

HM?

HYUO (WHOOSH)

MY HAT!

IT WAS A PRETTY, SILVERY VOICE. AND YET, IT WAS ALSO STRONG AND CLEAR.

DOK (UH) (THUMP)

THAT WAS THE DAY...
...I MET WITH DESTINY.

A tall hill, sakura petals dancing in the air.
A single girl standing at its very peak.
In that moment, I fell in love for the second time.

A LITTLE BIT TOO CLICHÉD MAYBE ...?

HMM...

APRIL, THE NEW SCHOOL TERM

I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT HER FACE LOOKS LIKE...

WHY IS IT ...?

I CAN REMEMBER HER CLOTHES THOUGH...

I NEVER ASKED HER NAME EITHER ...

BUT...

IN THE HALF-MONTH SINCE, I'VE SPENT THE DAYS GRAPPLING TIRELESSLY WITH MY PROJECT PROPOSAL.

SEE YA TOMOR-ROW!

BUT WHEN I TRIED TO REMEMBER HER...

THAT'S RIGHT.

And so, the new school term began, with the odd feeling that something was going to happen.

...IT'S FINE THIS WAY.

AAH!

IT'S WHEN YOU HAVE A DRAMATIC RECON-NECTION WITH DESTINY THAT THINGS REALLY START TO SHINE!

HUH?

UMM, WELL...

OH. SORRY.

WHO ARE YOU? CAN I HELP YOU?

PICKING UP MY HAT DURING SPRING BREAK.

DOKUN (THUMP)

!

THANK YOU FOR BEFORE.

?

YOU KNOW.

HM? FOR WHAT?

MY WHITE BERET.

"THINGS REALLY START TO SHINE!"

GAAH ...!?

HUH? WHAT?

IT DOESN'T SHINE AT ALL...

GUTAAAA (SLUMP)

AND SO, I WAS REUNITED WITH MY DESTINY. (DELIVERED IN MONOTONE)

ERR...

MEGUMI KANOU, YOU SAID YOUR NAME WAS?

IT'S "KATOU"!

YIKES! I STILL COULDN'T GET HER NAME RIGHT!

NAH.

IT'S JUST, WELL, KATOU...

WH—

WHAT IS IT?

(STARE)

.....

.....

...YOU'RE CUTE IN AN ORDINARY WAY, I GUESS.

!

.....

YEAH. I AGREE.

SO PLEASE FORGET I SAID IT.

BUT YOU DON'T SOUND ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT IT.

THANKS.

RIGHT AWAY.

AH, I SEE.

NO-BAKE CHEESECAKE, PLEASE.

OH, THAT'S TASTY!

OH! SORRY. UMM...

WHAT'S BEAN PASTE TOAST?

WELL, PLEASE ORDER WHATEVER YOU WANT. IT'S ALL ON ME TODAY.

SKIN PRETTY SMOOTH

FEATURES FAIRLY DECENT

BUST-WAIST-HIPS QUITE PROPORTIONAL

HEIGHT JUST RIGHT

.....

MEGUMI KATOU—

YEAH, WHAT I SAID BEFORE WAS NO LIE.

MEGUMI KATOU IS DEFINITELY CUTE.

...SO WHY DIDN'T IT MAKE MY HEART BEAT ANY FASTER?

SO, WHAT HAPPENED?

I SAID SOMETHING THAT WAS ALMOST A CONFESSION OF FEELINGS RIGHT TO HER FACE...

I'M SORRY ABOUT BEFORE.

I DIDN'T REALIZE WHO YOU WERE AT ALL.

WELL, IT CAN'T BE HELPED, BUT I WAS A LIIIITTLE SHOCKED.

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME YOUR NAME THAT DAY?

WELL, YOU'D SEEN ME PLENTY. IT WOULD'VE BEEN WEIRD TO INTRODUCE MYSELF, RIGHT?

BUT WE WERE IN DIFFERENT CLASSES LAST YEAR, WEREN'T WE?

I WAS IN CLASS E, SO WE WERE ON THE SAME FLOOR.

WHOA. I WALKED BY THERE ALL THE TIME.

WE MUST'VE PASSED EACH OTHER EVERY DAY.

S-SO WHERE'S THE HAT NOW?

I GAVE IT TO A RELATIVE OF MINE.

SHE SEEMED TO LIKE IT. SHE WAS REALLY HAPPY.

UHH... ERR... I SEE...

THE KEY ITEM FROM OUR FIRST MEETING, AND SHE JUST—!

AND THIS IS THE GIRL OF MY DESTINY!?

RRK ...! GAAAHH ...!

KACHA (CLAK)

KACHA

WELL, THAT'S JUST IT.

WHAA —!?

BISHI (THWIP)

GIVE ME BACK MY THROBBING HEART!

OHH. REALLY?

THIS JUST MEANS YOUR MEMORY IS BETTER THAN MINE, KATOU.

HMM...

IF THE RACING OF MY HEART FADES AWAY COMPLETELY LIKE THIS, I'LL LOSE MY INTEREST IN HER.

MY GRADES ARE NOTHING REMARK-ABLE.

THAT'S RIGHT. I'M IN THE GO-STRAIGHT-HOME CLUB.

SHE'LL BE... JUST ANOTHER OBJECT IN THE BACKGROUND.

MUNYOOON (SHWOOOM)

I DON'T REALLY STAND OUT. YOU DID VERY WELL TO REMEMBER ME.

PLUS, I'M AN OTAKU.

KACHA (KTAK)

NO ONE WOULD AGREE THAT YOU DON'T STAND OUT.

YOU'RE ONE OF THE TOP FIVE MOST FAMOUS PEOPLE AT SCHOOL.

WHA—!?

REALLY!?

THERE WAS THAT ANIME SCREENING AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL LAST YEAR.

BUT THIS SERIES IS SO AWESOME! WHY CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND THAT!?

SCHOOL IS NO PLACE FOR THOSE MANGA MOVIES!!

NOW, NOW!

PRIN-CIPAL

VICE-PRIN-CIPAL

TO GET PERMISSION, YOU ENDED UP ARGUING WITH THE VICE-PRINCIPAL, AND THEN THE PRINCIPAL EVEN INTERVENED ...

WAS I REALLY THAT CONSPIC-UOUS ...?

FOR REAL ...?

I... I SEE. I HAD NO IDEA!

I DIDN'T KNOW PEOPLE REALLY NOTICED THAT.

SU (SHFF)

YEAH.

BASICALLY, THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.

...WHAT IS?

?

"BOTH"?

YOU AND I BOTH, AKI-KUN.

THAT YOU HAD NO IDEA.

YOU AREN'T REALLY TRYING TO STAND OUT, AKI-KUN ...

...AND I'M NOT REALLY TRYING TO BE INCONSPICUOUS.

OH...?

...AND I KNEW WHO YOU WERE, AKI-KUN.

BUT YOU STILL DIDN'T KNOW WHO I WAS...

I'VE BEEN... INSENSITIVE TO HER.

SOMEHOW, I JUST FADE AWAY...

ACCORDING TO MY FRIENDS, I DON'T MAKE MUCH OF AN IMPRESSION, YOU KNOW?

OH ...!

AHA! I GET IT! I GET IT! I TOTALLY GET IT!

I DIDN'T EXPECT THIS! YOU'RE SO CUTE, KATOU, SO I THOUGHT YOU MUST BE MORE POPULAR!

EVEN THOUGH YOU DIDN'T REMEMBER MY NAME OR FACE UNTIL TODAY?

TODAY'S THE FIRST TIME I REALIZED IT!

IT'S TRUE— THERE'S NO DOUBT SHE'S CUTE.

OBJECTIVELY SPEAKING, OF COURSE...

IT'S OKAY. YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ME.

MUNYOOON (SHWOOOM)

NO, I WASN'T ACTUALLY ...

SEE, THAT'S WHY I ALWAYS THINK...

... THAT I...

PLAIN?
...REALLY AM PLAIN AFTER ALL.

(GATAN (CLATTER)
WHAT IS SHE SAYING!?
SO IT'S NOT JUST YOU, AKI-KUN. IT CAN'T BE HELPED IF NO ONE CAN REMEM—
YOU'RE WRONG!

I DON'T HAVE THAT MANY FRIENDS...
...AND I DON'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO TRY TO MAKE MANY MORE.
(DOUDOUDOU (RUMBLE)
DID SHE SAY... "PLAIN"?
H-HEY...
WHAT IS...?
MY GRADES ARE SO-SO. I'M NOT IN ANY CLUBS...
I'VE NEVER BEEN ON A CLASS COMMITTEE.

YOU'RE NOT PLAIN AT ALL!

P-PLEASE CALM DOWN!

KATOU, YOU ARE NOT PLAIN!

SO— THAT I GUAR-ANTEE YOU!

SO, KATOU ...!

KI (SHRIEK)

MY GIRL-FRIEND WAS AMAZINGLY PLAIN!

LISTEN TO ME! THIS IS ABOUT LAST YEAR!

SHE HAD BRAIDS! SHE WORE GLASSES! SHE HAD FRECKLES! SHE WAS THE EMBODIMENT OF PLAIN!

SHE KEPT PEOPLE AT ARM'S LENGTH! SHE STUBBORNLY KEPT HER EYES AVERTED!

SHE WAS FULL OF COMPLEXES ABOUT HERSELF ...

BUT I FELT BURNING MOE FOR HER FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART!

AAH!

MOE ...?

SHE OPENED HER HEART—

BA (WHAP)

SHE OPENED HER HEART ONLY TO ME!

AH! THIS PART'S CRUCIAL!

SHE HAD EYES—!

SHE HAD EYES ONLY FOR ME!

THIS IS CRUCIAL TOO!

GUGUGUGUGU (CLENCH)

I COULDN'T HAVE BEEN HAPPIER!

おおおお

UH, MY BAD. I GOT ALL WORKED UP.

PEKO (BOW)

SORRY FOR CAUSING A SCENE.

PEKO

A BIT ...

ARE YOU TIRED?

はあああ

あああ

HAAAAAAH..

THAT WAS VERY MIS-LEAD-ING...

NO! A DATING SIM.

CIRCLING KISS. IT CAME OUT LAST YEAR.

WAS THIS A GIRL IN AN ANIME?

THAT CAME OUT OF NOWHERE. YOU TOOK ME BY SURPRISE.

...IN OTHER WORDS ...

BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT WE NEED.

SHE'S GONE RED.

YEAH, SHE REALLY IS CUTE.

...PLAINNESS ITSELF IS A STRONG PERSONALITY TRAIT.

IT'S CHARACTER.

DO YOU UNDER-STAND, KATOU?

YOU ARE NOT PLAIN.

YOU'RE NOT PLAIN, AND YOU'RE NOT FLAM-BOYANT.

YOU DON'T HAVE INDIVIDU-ALITY OR ATTRI-BUTES.

.....

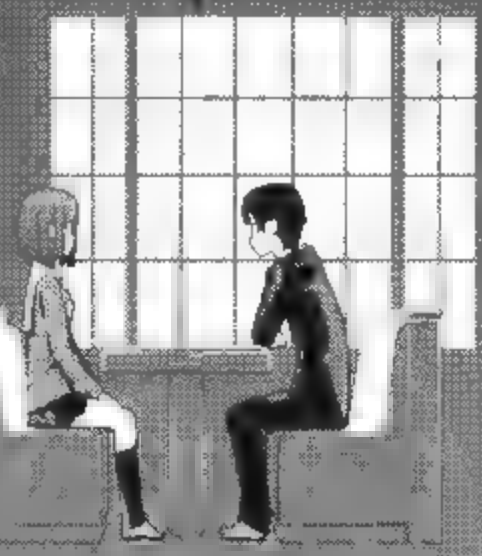
YOU SIMPLY...

...HAVE NO CHARACTER DEFINITION AT ALL.

HM?

UMM... MAY I ASK SOME-THING?

IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING—



YOU ARE DEAD OF CHARACTER.

.....

SO YOU WEREN'T TRYING TO CHEER ME UP.

CHEER YOU UP? WHY?

YES.

YOU'RE JUST HALFWAY. THAT'S WHY YOU DON'T STAND OUT.

IN OTHER WORDS, I'M WORSE THAN A GIRL IN A GAME?

I'M NOT FEELING SO ATTRACTIVE...

...KATOU?

GORON (ROLL)

TO THINK THE GIRL OF MY DESTINY...

...COULD BE THAT POORLY DEFINED AND LACKING...

HAAHHH...

AND AFTER I'D FINALLY GOTTEN MY CREATIVE DRIVE BACK...

KASA (RUSTLE)

Character Detail
Heroine A (name TBD)
The Main Heroine
A girl met on a hill where sakura petals dance

SFX: GUSHA (SCRUNCH) GUSHA

ACK!

...!

THIS GAME'S TOO IMPOSSI-BLE!

SHE'LL BE A "FRIEND #2" FOREVER!

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN MAKE A HEROINE OUT OF HER LIKE THIS!

AAAH! IT'S NO USE! NOTH-ING'S COMING TOGETH-ER!

ISN'T BEING TOO MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD...

...AN ATTRIBUTE IN AND OF ITSELF ...?

WAIT A SECOND ...?

GABAAA (WHUMP)

AND SO, THE NEXT DAY

KATOU.

OH, MORNING, AKI-KU—

BA (WHAP)

!?

BAN (BAM)

FROM NOW ON, YOU SPEND EVERY DAY AFTER SCHOOL WITH ME.

Title
Megu-tan's Lovey-Dovey Summer Vacation (Working Title)

OH. OKAY.

I'M NOT IN ANY CLUBS, AND I DON'T HAVE A JOB, SO...

YOU... YOU COULDN'T BE ANY EASIER TO CONVINCE...

DON'T YOU HAVE ANY MORE TO SAY...?

I'M GOING TO TURN YOU INTO A LOVE-INSPIRING MAIN HEROINE.

END

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CHAPTER 3

FORGIVE ME.

I AM VERY FLATTERED BY YOUR FEELINGS THOUGH, SENPAI.

TRULY.

IF YOU'RE TOO BUSY WITH THE EXHIBITION, THEN HOW ABOUT RETHINKING IT AFTER?

HUH?

SO ...HOW ABOUT YOU JUST HOLD OFF ON ANSWERING FOR NOW?

S-SAWAMURA-SAN?

UMM ... SAWAMURA-SAN?

DID YOU NOT HEAR ME? YOU'RE KINDA FAR AWAY.

.....

CHIRI (GNASH)

!

WELL, JUST BY CHANCE.

YOU'RE HERE?

EVEN SO, THAT WAS MEAN OF YOU.

IGNORING HIM AT THE LAST MOMENT RIGHT TO HIS FACE.

"BY CHANCE," YOU MAY SO ASSERT, BUT PEEPING ON SOMEONE'S CONFESSION OF LOVE ALL THE WAY TO THE END IS INDEEED IN VERRRY POOR TASTE.

YOU TALKING SO FORMALLY IS VERY WEIRD, YOU KNOW.

SO, WHAT IS IT? IF YOU NEED SOMETHING, KEEP IT SHORT. OOP, TOO BAD. TIME'S UP.

YOU ONLY GAVE ME 0.5 SEC-ONDS— I ONLY GOT THAT ONE BARB IN!

AAAHH,

BLEH!

MY NEW DATING SIM PROPOSAL!

BA (WHAP)

I'VE TOTALLY REVISED IT SINCE LAST TIME!

I LISTENED TO BOTH OF YOUR OPINIONS!

Title: Megu-tan's Dovey Summer Vacation

NOW, THE MAIN POINTS THIS TIME ARE—

FURU (TREMBLE)

ALL YOU MEN...

FURU

FUO (WHOOSH)

HUH?

HYAAH!

AUGH!

DON'T YOU FORCE YOUR OWN EXPECTA-TIONS ON ME!

SHE USES THE MOE ELEMENT, BELOVED BY OTAKU, FOR SUCH VIOLENCE ...!

THE GOD OF TWINTAILS SHALL JUDGE THEE!

I'LL WATCH MY DISTANCE NEXT TIME.

GEEZ, THAT REALLY HURT ...!

BUT I'VE MADE **STRATEGIC ARRANGE-MENTS.** IT SHOULD BE OKAY.

HEY, AKI-KUN.

...DO I HAVE TO WRITE MY MEASURE-MENTS ON HERE?

CHARACTER DETAILS
Megumi Katou (working
The main heroine. On a hill
Second-year at Toyogasaki
Height:
Weight:
Bust:
Waist:
nthusiasm: Well, I'm a little bit embarrassed, but

THE DAY AFTER THE FATED REUNION ...

THERE ARE TOO MANY THINGS ON THE LIST THAT I WANT TO QUES-TION...

IS THIS THE TIME TO BE CON-CERNED ABOUT YOUR PER-SONAL PRIVACY !?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!? I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU THE HEROINE IN A DATING SIM!

BUT COULDN'T THIS BE CALLED SEXUAL HARASS-MENT?

WELL, I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY DATA ON THOSE AREAS.

...AND AFTER SCHOOL EVERY DAY SINCE...

...WE'VE BEEN MEETING LIKE THIS.

WHAA —?

...BUT NOT SO MUCH THAT IT RUINS THE IMAGE I WANT.

IT'S FINE! JUST WRITE THEM DOWN. YOU CAN JAZZ THEM UP A BIT IF YOU WANT...

...WE STARTED UP OUR DATING SIM PRODUCTION CLUB...

BUT SINCE YOU'VE KEPT TALKING TO ME LIKE IT WAS ALL NOTHING ...

...I JUST THOUGHT, "OHH, I GUESS WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY WASN'T SUCH A BIG DEAL."

WHAT A PUSH-OVER!

WELL ...

...I DID THINK THAT WAS VERY RUDE.

AND AFTER I SAID AWFUL THINGS ABOUT HOW YOU HAD NO PERSONALITY.

STILL, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DIDN'T FLAT OUT TURN ME DOWN.

...OUR POSITION AS "JUST FRIENDS" HAS CONTINUED TO CEMENT, ALMOST SPECTACULARLY.

SINCE WE STARTED GETTING TOGETHER...

Synopsis
I was charmed by you from the moment we met. Initially, when we were reunited, my dream was shattered. But I didn't give up. No matter how many times I close my eyes, you in that white dress that day...keeps floating up in my mind.

.....

WE'RE STUCK AT THE STARTING LINE WITHOUT THOSE TWO.

...ON SAWAMURA-SAN AND KASUMIGAOKA-SENPAI?

YOU'RE NOT GIVING UP...

ALL I CAN DO IS BE PERSISTENT AND KEEP ASKING.

THEY TURNED ME DOWN AGAIN.

ANY IDEA WHO ELSE SHOULD JOIN US?

SO DO YOU HAVE ANY THOUGHTS ON HOW TO PROCEED NEXT?

THAT'S JUST IT, AKI-KUN.

WHAT IS, KATOU-KUN?

RIGHT OFF THE BAT, THE HURDLES ARE TOO HIGH.

SAWAMURA-SAN IS THE ACE OF THE ART CLUB, AND KASUMI-GAOKA-SENPAI IS THE TOP HONOR STUDENT IN OUR YEAR.

THEY WOULD NEVER JOIN AN OTAKU CLUB LIKE THIS ONE.

OH, THAT ...

OF COURSE. SHE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THEIR TRUE COLORS.

AND BEFORE WE GET AHEAD OF OUR-SELVES, YOU ONLY INVITED GIRLS.

AKI-KUN, YOU... REALLY ARE DATING SIM OBSESSED, AREN'T YOU? I GUESS YOU COULD SAY YOU'RE TRYING TOO HARD TO BRING YOUR IDEALS INTO REALITY.

I SEE... IN THAT CASE...

HEY, KATOU ....

OH! DID I SAY TOO MUCH? I'M SOR—

WHY DON'T YOU COME OVER TO MY HOUSE TOMORROW?

THE NEXT DAY

...PARDON THE INTRUSION.

.....

.....

ICHIRA (GLANCE)

S-SURE ...

WELL, IT'S KIND OF A MESS, BUT HAVE A SEAT ANYWAY.

SO THIS IS YOUR PLACE, HUH, AKI-KUN?

.....

WHAT THE—? SHE WAS ALL FOR COMING OVER, BUT NOW SHE'S NERVOUS ABOUT BEING IN A GUY'S ROOM ...?

AAH!

GA (TRIP)

YEAH, SORRY! I'LL GO GET DRINKS!

SUKU (STAND)

OH, IT'S SO HOT! CAN I OPEN A WINDOW?

NO! IT'S FINE!

IT'S JUST SO CRAMPED IN HERE!

ACK! SORRY!

LET ME WIPE THAT UP!

AAH ...!

DOKI (THUMP)

SHE'S NO DIFFERENT FROM USUAL!

WOW! THIS IS EXACTLY HOW YOU'D ENVISION AN OTAKU'S BEDROOM!

BUT NO SUCH EVENT OCCURRED.

TODAY, NO MATTER WHAT, I WON'T LAY A FINGER ON HER!

SOMEHOW, THAT GIVES ME CONFIDENCE FOR THE FUTURE.

...BUT SHE SAID "OKAY" WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT!

OKAY.

UMM...

BRINGING A GIRL YOU HARDLY KNOW HOME IS NOT OTAKU BEHAVIOR!

NORMALLY, THIS WOULD DEFINITELY RAISE SOME FLAGS...

AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHY...

...I CAN ACT JUST LIKE I ALWAYS DO WHEN I CALL AN OTAKU FRIEND OVER.

FOR NOW, WE'LL JUST KILL SOME TIME PLAYING A DATING SIM.

BUT IT'S OKAY. IT'S NOT AN EROTIC ONE.

"OKAY"? "FOR NOW"? I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON...

よりめもメモリアル
YORIMEMO MEMORIAL
B

IT'S FINE. IT'S FINE.

PT (BLIP)

PREPARE YOURSELF, KATOU! YOU NEED TO CLEAR ONE HEROINE ROUTE IN THIS GAME..

...OR WATCH ONE WHOLE SEASON OF AN ANIME BEFORE YOU CAN LEAVE. THOSE ARE THE RULES HERE!

YES, COMING INTO MY HOME...

...MEANS GETTING DATING SIMS HAMMERED INTO YOU!

SEEMS LIKE YOU HAVE THE BASICS COVERED.

Let's be off, then.

Today was fun. Ask me out again next time.

BY THE WAY, KATOU ...

YOU'RE SOMEONE WORTH TEACH-ING!

WELL, YOU EXPLAINED IT SO IN-SISTENTLY.

...DO YOU SIT LIKE THAT AT HOME TOO?

WELL, SEEMS LIKE SHE'S NOT DOING IT ON PURPOSE.

OH, I DIDN'T NOTICE! WHY AM I SITTING LIKE THIS?

ON THE WAY OVER TOO, SHE WAS HOLDING THE STRAP OF HER BAG AS IT CROSSED HER CHEST.

...MAYBE SHE'S REALLY MODEST?

I FIGURED SHE WAS A PUSHOVER, BUT...

AND SHE'S WEARING PANTS TODAY TOO.

.....

BY GRASPING THE STRAP WITH THE HANDS, THE WEDGE FORMS A WEIRD CLEAVAGE, OR "WEAVAGE," FOR SHORT.

AS A RESULT, THE SEAT BELT EFFECT WAS WASTED...!

IS SHE BEING STAUNCHLY ON GUARD OR SUBCONSCIOUSLY DRAWING ATTENTION TO HER BREASTS? HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO KNOW WHICH TYPE OF PLAYER SHE'S AIMING FOR!?

P.E. SEATED POSTURE, HUH?

ハア HFF! ハア HFF!

MAX

ソイィイィ

GYUIIN (SHWEENG)

PAY ATTENTION! THIS IS THE ALL-IMPORTANT SOULMATE IN EVERY DATING SIM.

ショボーン

SHOBOOON (SHWUMP)

SHUUUN (SMOOM)

BA (BOLT)

WHY DOES THIS BOY KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT GIRLS?

CLEAN YOUR EARS OUT AND LISTEN CLOSELY!

SO, TO PICK UP WHERE I LEFT OFF YESTERDAY...

Today was really fun!

Be sure to ask me again, okay? Promise?

THAT'S NOT NECES-SARILY TRUE FOR A PC DATING SIM.

SOMETIMES, EVEN LITTLE COMPANIES WITH ONLY TWO OR THREE PEOPLE MAKE THEM.

...IT WOULD BE GOOD TO TRY TO GET SOME MORE PEOPLE IN ON THIS.

EVEN I KNOW THAT YOU NEED A LOT OF PEOPLE TO MAKE A VIDEO GAME.

OKAY, SO WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE SHOULD WE GET?

WELL, LET ME THINK...

MY TASTES?

BUT YOU'RE CHOOSING THEM ACCORDING TO YOUR OWN TASTES, AKI-KUN.

SWEATING LIKE A PIG →

SAY, TOMOYA-DONO...THIS HEAT IS REALLY KILLING ME, D'OH.

BIG BODY →

← BANDANA = SCRUNCHIE

SOMEONE WITH KIND OF A BIG BODY, WHO SWEATS EVEN IN WINTER, WHO NEVER TAKES OFF THEIR BANDANNA...

...WHO ADDRESSES PEOPLE AS "DONO," AND ENDS SENTENCES WITH "D'OH," AND LAUGHS ALL "DUH-HUH."

AND MY BRAIN AUTO-MATICALLY TRANS-FORMED IT INTO A BEAUTIFUL GIRL.

NOT FOR ME, SORRY.

I DON'T REALLY KNOW IF YOU'RE A CRUEL PERSON OR A KIND ONE...

WELL, IT CAN'T BE HELPED, CAN IT?

I HEAR THAT YOUR WORLD IS MADE UP OF THOSE KINDS OF PEOPLE, AKI-KUN.

AND WOULD THAT BE OKAY WITH YOU, KATOU?

THOSE TWO?

THERE'S NO WAY THEY'D GET INVOLVED.

BUT THOSE TWO HAVE NO IDEA ABOUT ANYTHING OTAKU.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN UNDER THAT IMPRESSION?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

SAWAMURA-SAN AND KASUMIGAOKA-SENPAI.

OH, SO THAT'S YOUR PERCEPTION.

THAT'S PREJUDICED, YOU KNOW, KATOU.

...OH!

HUH? SINCE WHEN DID WE START TALKING ABOUT THE GAME!?

YOU'LL LOSE AN AFFINITY POINT FOR THAT PRESENT.

YOU SELECTED THE WRONG OPTION JUST NOW.

NICE GOING, GEEZ!

AAAH! I THOUGHT YOU COULDN'T GO WRONG WITH A GIRL IF YOU GAVE AN ACCESSORY FOR A GIFT!

YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T BE THE ONE MAKING SEXIST REMARKS ABOUT WOMEN!

ENOUGH!

IT'S BREAK AND LECTURE TIME!

LISTEN UP, KATOU!

PI (BEEP)

BISHI (JAB)

YOU DO NOT UNDER-STAND WHAT A DATING SIM HEROINE ACTUALLY IS!

...NOR ARE THEY AUTOMATONS WHO WILL ALWAYS RESPOND EXACTLY THE SAME WAY WHEN YOU PUSH CERTAIN BUTTONS!

THOSE GIRLS ARE NOT MERELY SYM-BOLS ...

WARM BLOOD ACTUALLY FLOWS THROUGH THEIR VEINS!

THEY HAVE TO BE BEINGS EVEN MORE CAPTIVATING THAN REAL WOMEN!

131
FURU

131
FURU
(TREMBLE)

IF YOU DON'T EVEN UNDER-STAND SOME-THING SO BASIC...

...HOW CAN WE TURN YOU INTO A DATING SIM HEROINE !?

...YOU COULD AT LEAST PUT SOME TEA ON BEFORE PREACHING TO ME.

YOUR INSIS-TENCE IS TOO WEAK! ASK AGAIN!

WHYYY ...?

OH, LOOK AT THE TIME!

18:54

HANG ON A SEC!

THANKS FOR TODAY. IT WAS MUCH MORE FUN THAN I EXPECTED.

I'D BETTER BE OFF.

THE VIEWWW~! I CAN SEEEE~! FROM THE WINDOW~!!

HUH!?

I TOLD YOU YOU DON'T GET TO LEAVE UNTIL YOU CLEAR ONE GIRL!

BUT IT'S ALMOST SEVEN. AND IT'S PITCH-BLACK OUTSIDE.

YOU JUST GOT A BAD ENDING— THAT DOESN'T COUNT!

DOESN'T THAT MAKE IT TOTALLY NOT OKAY!?

IT'S OKAY! MY PARENTS WON'T BE BACK UNTIL REALLY LATE TONIGHT!

GASHI (GRAB)

WAIT!

!

DON'T LEAVE YET!

"THIS" IS A NECESSARY THING FOR OUR CLUB.

THIS IS WHY I CALLED HER...

SO...

YOU PROMISED, KATOU.

I'M BEGGING YOU.

……

AKI-
KUN
…

YOU'LL STAY!?

WELL, I DID SAY I MIGHT BE LATE GETTING HOME.

GUESS A LITTLE WHILE LONGER IS OKAY.

LET'S BOTH TRY TO MAKE IT TO KOSHIEN!

YOU HAVE REAL SPIRIT.

IF I ASKED HER FOR SOME ACTION, MAYBE I'D HAVE A CHANCE...

EVEN AT A TIME LIKE THIS, SHE'S NOT AT ALL SCARED. IS THAT GOOD OR BAD?

MY OWN DATING SIM FILTER: TYPE 2

A-ARE YOU AN IDIOT!? WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU THINK-ING!?

AFTER ALL, MY INTENTIONS WEREN'T SEXUAL IN THE FIRST PLACE!

IT'S A FINE RESPONSE, BUT MY FEELINGS ARE COMPLI-CATED.

MY OWN DATING SIM FILTER: TYPE 1

I GUESS THERE'S NO HELPING IT.

YOU'RE TOO EASY! I'M NOT FEELING ANY MOE!

NO, NO, NO! THIS IS NO GOOD AT ALL!

OH. SORRY. YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE PROJECT.

HUH? DIDN'T YOU ASK HER?

SAWA-MURA-SAN?

KUWA (ROAR)

I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY POINT IN ASKING.

I NEVER ASKED YOU ANY-THING!

?

HER DISGUISE AT SCHOOL IS ABSO-LUTELY PERFECT.

IT'S NO WONDER YOU DON'T KNOW THE TRUTH.

SHE'S IN THE RUNNING FOR MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL IN SCHOOL.

SHE'LL NEVER DO ANYTHING OTAKU.

PCF (WHAM)

BUT THAT'S WHY...

...I MADE SOME STRATEGIC ARRANGE-MENTS.

PCF

PLEASE JUST HEAR ME OUT!

AND SHE TURNED YOU DOWN SO HARD... THERE'S JUST NO WAY.

WELL, SHE'S THINKING THE SAME THING.

SHE'S EVEN BLOCKED MY CALLS.

I ALREADY SAID ALL I'M GONNA SAY! DON'T TALK TO ME ABOUT THIS ANYMORE!

POFU (WHAP)

YOWW!

OUCHY! TICKLY!

AAH! HANG ON A SECOND!

JUST GIVE UP ALREADY.

SEE YA.

WHY NOT WATCH IT TO UNWIND THIS WEEKEND?

I FINISHED WITH YOU-KNOW-WHAT, SO I BROUGHT IT WITH ME.

KIKIKIKIIII (SCREECH)

!?

A BICYCLE?

...SAY THERE WAS THIS MOE ADDICT, AND I RECOMMENDED A GAME TO THEM WHERE THE HEROINE WAS SO CUTE YOU'D DIE OF MOE, BUT IT WAS ACTUALLY A DEPRESSING GAME WHERE THE ADORABLE HEROINE DIES—THEY'D BE ANGRY, RIGHT?

DAN

DAN (STILL)

DAN

IN THE SAME WAY, IF SOMEONE HATED HORROR AND I TRICKED THEM INTO BORROWING A HORROR SHOW, THEY'D BE ANGRY, RIGHT?

DAN

DAN

YEAH. YOU'D BETTER TAKE COVER.

YOU KNOW, KATOU ...

DAN

DAN

DAN

DAN

DAN

THEY'RE COMING CLOSER AND CLOSER TO THIS ROOM!

DAN

DAN

AAH...! AKI-KUN, THEY'RE AT THE DOOR...!

HUH? SOME-BODY'S JUST COME IN?

YOUR PAR-ENTS ?

BATAN (SLAM)

HOW THE HELL ...
...IS THIS A MOE BATTLE ANIME-EEEEE!?

SHE LIVES NEARBY, AND SHE'S A CHILDHOOD FRIEND.

I LEND HER LOTS OF DIFFERENT STUFF.

SAWA-MURA-SAN...? HUH...?

HAAH.

HNZZ.

WHAAAAAAAAA...!?

END

CHAPTER 4

HOW THE HELL ...

...IS THAT A MOE BATTLE ANIME!?

HFF!

HNZZ!

YOU ... YOU KNOW ...

HFF

...THAT I CAN'T HANDLE HORROR AT ALL!

(RUMBLE)

HM?

YOU MEAN YOU DIDN'T LIKE *IS THIS A ZOMBIE? YES, IT'S GEORGE A. ROMERO'S MASTER-PIECE?*

FURU

FURU (TREMBLE)

AND WHY FROM THE FOURTH VOLUME !?

THE FIRST THREE WERE THE ACTUAL DISCS!

CARE-LESS, WERE YOU?

THE OPENING WAS NORMAL, BUT WHEN I GOT TO THE MAIN STORY, IT WAS SUDDENLY FULL OF THESE GROTESQUE LIVE-ACTION SCENES!

GAAARGHH!

あ〃 あ〃 あ〃 あ〃

EEEK!

AND YOU EDITED IN ONLY THE MOST REVOLTING STUFF!

XIII

GATA (CLACK)

IT TOOK EVERY EFFORT. YOU COULD NEVER TELL IT FROM THE REAL THING.

I EVEN MADE THE DVD LABEL MYSELF.

IS THIS A ZOMBIE?

SHUT UP!

I HAD NO INTENTION OF EVER SETTING FOOT IN YOUR HOUSE AGAIN!

WHY ARE YOU BLOCKING MY CALLS!?

I HAD TO PHYSICALLY COME OVER HERE!

WELL, YOU BLOCKED MY CALLS FIRST. TIT FOR TAT.

LOOK!

LOOK AT THIS!

ZU (WHOOM)

BAAAN (BAM)

IAH!

I FELL OVER AND HIT MY HEAD!

IT'S A LUMP!

THIS UNREA-SONABLE ANGER...

WHAT A STRONG ATTRIBUTE.

SHE'S SO MUCH LIKE A GAME ARCHE-TYPE.

GUSHA (MUSS)

HOW CAN YOU BE SO CALM !?

GAAH! BEING ANGRY MAKES IT HURT EVEN MORE!

SHALL I GO GET THE FIRST AID KIT?

CRY OR BE ANGRY— CHOOSE ONE!

GUSHA

GUSHA

DOKA (WHUMP)

IF A CHARACTER FITS TOO MUCH INTO A MOLD, YOU GET BORED EASILY.

BUT THAT'S A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD.

BUN (FLING)

PASHI (CATCH)

THAT SUPERHUMAN ABILITY TO SEE RIGHT THROUGH ME MAKES YOU EVEN MORE OF THE CHILDHOOD FRIEND CHARACTER ARCHETYPE!

AND DON'T THROW THAT FI●MA! IT'S A LIMITED EDITION!

YOU'VE GONE OFF ANALYZING PEOPLE'S CHARACTERS IN YOUR HEAD AGAIN, HAVEN'T YOU!?

YOU DATING SIM FREAK!

GA (GRAB)

HANG ON!

BUT WHEN SHE EXPLODES LIKE THIS, SHE'S REDUCED TO A CHARACTER THAT'S ORDINARY AND IRRATIONAL.

SHE USUALLY HAS A NICE, FAIRLY BALANCED PERSONALITY.

OH! ARE YOU OKAY, KATOU?

YIKES! I FORGOT SHE WAS EVEN HERE...

H-HEY, AKI-KUN?

!

INCIDENTALLY, SHE HASN'T EVEN ONCE BEEN NICE TO ME IN OVER TEN YEARS, SO I WOULDN'T CALL HER A TSUNDERE CHARACTER IF IT KILLED ME.

THANK GOODNESS. SHE'S NOT BROKEN.

GATA

GATA

GATA (SHAKE)

GATA

WHO...

...IS THIS PERSON ...?

AH! THAT QUICK COME-BACK WAS JUST RIGHT.

WELL, YOU NEVER NOTICED ME FOR OVER A YEAR EITHER.

OH, SHE'S SO CUTE RIGHT NOW!

HAVEN'T YOU FIGURED IT OUT?

YOU'VE BEEN GOING TO THE SAME SCHOOL WITH HER FOR OVER A YEAR NOW, HAVEN'T YOU?

BAAAN (BAM)

HMPH!

WELL, YOU SEE...

...THIS IS SOMEONE I'VE BEEN GOING TO SCHOOL WITH ALL MY LIFE— ERIRI SPENCER SAWAMURA.

BEHOLD REALITY!

SAWA-MURA-SAN IS A LADY...

SHE'S REFINED ...

NO... THIS PERSON CAN'T BE SAWA-MURA-SAN!

UMM... I WET THIS HAND-KER-CHIEF FOR YOU.

HM!

MUNZU CYANKO

むんず

AND YOU TOO— I JUST INTRO-DUCED HER TO YOU, DIDN'T I!?

WHO'S THIS CHICK?

? ? ?

EEEP!

ZUU (LOOM)

AKI-KUN, WHY IS SHE STARING AT ME?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. SHE'S SUPER-NEAR-SIGHTED.

ALSO, YOUR YELP JUST NOW WAS QUITE NICE.

NOW I KNOW YOU'RE PRETTY CUTE WHEN YOU'RE SCARED, KATOU.

WHA —?

—!

ZUZUU

GIGIRO (GLARE)

"THIS" WHAT?

... THIS—

NEAR-SIGHTED, OKAY, BUT...

WHOA!

I GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE. KATOU, COME HERE A SECOND.

CALM DOWN.

HOW RUDE!

THERE'S NO WAY THIS IS SAWA-MURA-SAN!

WHA —!?

WHAT IS THIS...? SHE'S SO CUTE!

"WHY-ARE-YOU-TELLING-HER?" KICK!

BAKI (CRACK)

NOT A KICK!

EGOISTIC LILY.

HEY, YOU'RE GONNA BREAK THAT!

SHUT UP, YOU IDIOT!

GA

GA (BONK)

IT'S ERIRI'S HOME PAGE. IT'S WHERE SHE PUBLISHES HER ART.

THEY TAKE PART IN EVENTS ALMOST EVERY MONTH AND MAKE A KILLING. EVEN AT COMIKET, THEIR CIRCLE DOMINATES.

HAAH!

はぁ

DOMI-NATES?

ARE YOU OKAY?

HAAH!

MEANING, THEY'RE VERY MUCH IN DEMAND.

BETTER THIS THAN HER WRECKING MY TOY COLLEC TION ANYWAY.

HANDLE NAME— ERI KASHI-WAGI. CIRCLE NAME— EGOISTIC LILY. GENRE— ANIME AND GAMES.

THEY PAY CLOSE ATTENTION... TO THE POPULAR TITLES AND SWITCH GENRES ACCORD-INGLY.

PAN (WHAP)

PAN-

NEW ILLUSTRATIONS ARE UPLOADED DAILY...AND GET MORE THAN TEN THOUSAND HITS EVERY DAY.

SFX: GUGUGU (STRAIN)

NO NEED TO BE SO ANGRY.

YOWCH!

LOOK. I'VE GOT THE REAL VOLUME FOUR RIGHT HERE.

PASHI (THWAP)

HMPH!

THIS IS WHAT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO GIVE ME IN THE FIRST PLACE!

!

IS
ZO
?

THIS IS A BONUS YOU GET FOR BUYING THE SET— AN ART BOOK OF THE ROUGHS.

GARARA (RATTLE)

AND THAT'S NOT ALL...

WHOA...

THIS COULD DEFINITELY COME IN VERY HANDY WHEN WORKING ON YOUR DOUJINSHI.

YUP. ON THE NET, IT SELLS FOR MORE THAN ¥10,000.

EVERY ONE OF THE CREATOR'S CHARACTER ROUGHS IS PRINTED IN IT

I-IT CAN'T BE! ISN'T THIS THAT RARE ITEM YOU COULD ONLY GET BY SENDING IN THE POST-CARD THAT CAME WITH THE FIRST EDITION OF THE NOW OUT OF PRINT VOLUME 1!?

YOU TRULY ARE AN OTAKU TO YOUR VERY CORE...

FIRST EDITION...? BONUS...? DOUJINSHI...?

PLUS, I BOUGHT A SECOND DVD SET AND GOT ANOTHER ONE ANYWAY

IT'S A SMALL APOLOGY IN GOOD FAITH.

DO WHAT YOU LIKE.

I- I'M NOT GIVING IT BACK!

I'M GOING HOME.

YOU CAN GO TO HELL!

KICKING ME IN THE NUTS, OF ALL THE...!

N-NO... YOU ABSOLUTELY... HAVE TO BE ONE OF...US!

DO YOU SEE HOW DESPERATELY WE NEED HER!?

DO YOU SEE NOW!?

BEHIND THE SCENES, SHE'S WHOLE-HEARTEDLY INTO DOUJINSHI!

THIS OTAKU GIRL LEECHES OFF THE MOST POPULAR GENRES AND THEN RAKES IN THE DOUGH!

THAT DOESN'T MAKE ME FEEL BETTER!

WELL, WHETHER IT'S LIGHT NOVELS OR DATING SIMS, 90 PERCENT OF SALES ARE BASED ON THE ART!

OR SO I'VE HEARD!

LIMM...

YOU MEAN WITHOUT SOMEONE OF SAWAMURA-SAN'S CALIBER DRAWING ME, I CAN'T BE ATTRACTIVE?

PLEASE! IF ANYONE CAN MAKE THIS NON-DESCRIPT PERSON INTO A TRANSCENDENT MOE CHARACTER, IT'S YOU!

NO. THAT WOULDN'T WORK.

THEN WOULDN'T CREATING AN ORIGINAL CHARACTER INSTEAD OF USING A MODEL LOWER THE DIFFICULTY?

THIS PROJECT EXISTS BECAUSE OF KATOU.

EEEEK!

!?

.....

...SAY WHAT?

THIS GIRL IS MOSAICKED OUT.

DRAWING THIS IS A MUCH WORSE BREACH OF MANNERS!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? MINORS AREN'T ALLOWED TO LOOK AT IT...

. .BUT THERE ARE NO RESTRICTIONS ON DRAWING IT

DID YOU PRESS THE "I'M OVER 18" BUTTON?

SAWAMURA-SAN, WHAT IS THIS ...?

DON'T YOU KNOW IT'S BAD MANNERS TO ASK THAT?

MEANING, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE BREAKING THE LAW HERE.

WHY DID YOU CLICK "YES"?

YOU TOO, AKI-KUN?

BUT WHAT KATOU SAID IS UNDER-STAND-ABLE.

ISN'T IT BETTER TO DRAW OVER-18 MATERIAL AFTER YOU'RE OVER EIGHTEEN?

BUT THAT'S WHAT SELLS.

AND MY DAD'S RESPON-SIBLE FOR BOTH THE SITE AND THE CLUB, SO IT'S FINE.

BUT SINCE THIS IS JUST YOUR HOBBY...

. . .IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER IT SELLS OR NOT, RIGHT?

HUH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

WHA —!?

WHETHER IT SELLS OR NOT IS EVERY-THING!

FORCING YOUR OWN INTERESTS ONTO THE WORK ALIENATES CUSTOMERS
ANIME. GAMES. LIGHT NOVELS. MANGA...
CURRENT SERIES AND CURRENT CHARACTERS
EVERY BROADCAST SEASON
THE CHARACTERS ANTICS EACH WEEK...
2018 SUMMER ANIME AT A GLANCE
YOU'VE GOT TO ACCURATELY READ THE TRENDS AND PRODUCE A TIMELY SUPPLY OF PRODUCT TO MEET THE DEMAND OTHERWISE YOUR POPULARITY WILL FALL OFF
YOU WON'T SELL. YOU WON'T BE POPULAR.
YOUR DOUJIN WILL BECOME MEANINGLESS!

YOU'RE WRONG, ERIRI.

DON'T YOU SEE? CAN ANYONE WHO THINKS ABOUT IT IN SUCH A SIMPLISTIC WAY REMAIN CONSISTENTLY CREATIVE?

THAT KIND OF MERCENARY ATTITUDE ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH TO KEEP YOU GOING!

CAN THEY PUT OUT NEW PUBLICA-TIONS FOR EVENTS— NEVER MIND EVERY MONTH— EVERY WEEK?

I THOUGHT YOU WERE LESS CYNICAL THAN THAT!

REMEMBER YOURSELF! YOU AREN'T THAT NAIVE!

LOOK! I CLEARED ALL OF THEM!

YOU EVEN SET UP A MEMORY CARD JUST FOR YOURSELF!

YOU WERE OBSESSED WITH THAT GAME I MADE YOU PLAY!

SCREEN COMPLETELY CLEAR

DID THAT BEAMING FACE MEAN NOTHING!?

I'M GOING TO BE GOOD AT DRAWING SOMEDAY TOO!

AND YOU FLAUNTED THAT DRAWING YOU MADE OF KATA●●●●-SAN THAT WAS TERRIBLE BUT FULL OF LOVE!

ZAPPAAAN (KERSPLASH)

HUH!? I'M RIGHT, RIGHT!?

CREATION ...

...CANNOT HAPPEN WITHOUT PASSION!

DAYBREAK

TOMOYA ...

I CAN CARRY ON JUST FINE, THANKS.

SARA (BLUNT)

AFTER SUCH AN INTENSE SPEECH, YOU COULD AT LEAST HESITATE A SECOND!

IT'S ACTUALLY THE FULL-ON BUSINESS-MINDED CREATORS WHO ARE CONSTANTLY GOING TO EVENTS AND MAKING MONEY NONSTOP!

ENOUGH, ENOUGH! STOP CRUSHING THE DREAMS OF CONSUMER OTAKU EVERY-WHERE!

IT'S NO USE! WE'LL NEVER UNDER-STAND EACH OTHER EVER AGAIN!

IT'S WHEN YOU HOLD ON TO SUCH "NAIVE" DREAMS THAT THINGS "CANNOT HAPPEN."

HOW DARE YOU THROW MY WORDS BACK AT ME!

I'M DIFFER-ENT! I'M NOT ABOUT COM-MERCE! IT'S ABOUT FREE EXPRES-SION!

BIKU (JOLT)

SO WERE YOU LYING WHEN YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO PRODUCE THIS CHICK?

IF YOUR GAME DOESN'T SELL AND THE WORLD REFUSES TO ACCEPT HER CHARACTER, YOU WON'T MIND?

ISN'T WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO NOTHING MORE THAN SELF-SATISFACTION?

URK ...!

UH... UMM...

SO IF I HAVE NO PERSONALITY AND I'M NOT POPULAR ...

...DO I GET STRIPPED NAKED IN THE GAME? LIKE IN THAT DRAWING BEFORE?

IS THAT WHY YOU MADE ME WRITE DOWN MY MEASUREMENTS ...?

DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT A THING. JUST KEEP PLAYING THE GAME.

OKAY?

WE'RE NOT MAKING A DIRTY GAME ANYWAY.

COULD YOU BE QUIET FOR A MINUTE?

I made us lunch boxes. Want to eat with me?

NO, THAT LAST ONE WOULD BE A BIT, UH...

3D CU●●●M GIRL?

GIRL NEXT DOOR?

VOCAL-OID?

A VIRTUAL IDOL?

SO? WHAT KIND OF HEROINE DO YOU WANT TO MAKE THIS CHICK INTO?

DO YOU HAVE NO MAIN-STREAM CONCEPTS IN YOUR CREATIVE MAKEUP!?

ALSO, CAN I DRAW SPUNK ALL OVER THE PLACE IN THE LAST SCENE?

ALL THE SAME, YOU'RE BEING CRAZY-SPECIFIC. IT'S KINDA CREEPY.

WELL, I STILL HAVE NO INTEREST IN JOINING YOU, SO I DON'T CARE EITHER WAY.

NEVER YOU MIND. JUST FOCUS ON THE GAME.

YOU HAVE TO GET THAT GIRL'S PHYSICAL STRENGTH UP BY CHRIST-MAS.

AKI-KUN, WHAT KIND OF CHARACTER DO I HAVE TO BE SO I DON'T END UP LIKE THAT...?

SEE! NOW SHE'S ALL DEFEN-SIVE!

URU (TEARY) うう

URU うる

URU うる

So please keep working hard on your soccer.

I believe that you can become a team regular.

H-HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU TO GIVE UP!?

H-HEY, WON'T YOU THINK IT OVER AGAIN?

HUH? OH.. NOTHING.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU TWO?

So if it's all right...

...could you take me along to the National Stadium?

AH!

N-NO, WELL, SEE—

WELL, WHY HAS YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD HER DONE A ONE-EIGHTY SINCE LAST YEAR?

WHY DO YOU HATE UTAHA-SENPAI SO MUCH?

I'M NOT INTERESTED TO BEGIN WITH, BUT IF SHE'S ON IT, 100% NO WAY WILL I BE A PART OF IT.

IT'LL BE A SUCCESS FOR SURE! THE SCENARIOS WILL BE TIGHT. KASUMIGAOKA WILL BE WRITING IT—

BUWAWA (SOB)

KUH .....!

CHI CHI CHI CHI TWEET

OH! IT'S GOTTEN LIGHT OUTSIDE.

AWW...

SO THAT'S THE END, HUH...?

THE NEXT DAY

MORNING, AKI-KUN.

=YAWN=

HEY. STILL SLEEPY?

PRETTY MUCH. I DID SUDDENLY SPEND THE WHOLE NIGHT OUT.

STILL, WE STAYED UP ALL NIGHT AND GOT NOWHERE, HUH?

WHA —!?

OH, BUT IT WAS PRETTY FUN THOUGH.

I GOT MORE AND MORE INTO IT WITH EACH DATE.

AND I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT WHICH PRESENT TO GIVE...

...SO THAT CONFESSION OF LOVE AT THE END REALLY MOVED ME.

I... I'M GLAD ...

EVERYTHING YOU SAY IS SO EASY TO MISINTERPRET, KATOU!

SOWA (FIDGET)

SOWA

SOWA

WHAT'S WRONG?

?

I... I'M FINE...

NO, I'M NOT! WHAT IF EVERYONE GETS THE WRONG IDEA!?

IS IT ON PURPOSE? DOES SHE WANT IT TO BE TRUE?

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ME, KATOU?

YOU'RE ACTING SO WEIRD!

.....

ZAWA (MURMUR)

THANK GOOD-NESS! I FINALLY FOUND YOU!

GUSHA (MUSS)

GUSHA

SHE'S CUTE, AMIABLE, FUN TO BE WITH...

RANKED ON A LIST OF "GIRLS YOU'D LIKE TO DATE CASUALLY," I EXPECT SHE'D BE PRETTY HIGH UP THERE, BUT...

NOBODY PAYS AT-TENTION TO HER— HUH.

...SAWAMURA-SAN.

I CAME TO RETURN YOUR HANDKERCHIEF. YOU REALLY HELPED ME OUT.

THERE WERE SOME LOVELY ROSES IN A GARDEN BY THE ROAD, BUT WHEN I WENT TO TOUCH ONE...

OH NO! SAWAMURA-SAN'S FINGER!

THEY ARE SO BEAUTIFUL... AND YET THE THORNS ARE SO SHARP...

UM, IS YOUR FOREHEAD OKAY?

THIS ISN'T MUCH, BUT PLEASE ACCEPT IT... ...IN THANKS.

Y-YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO...

M-MODEL?

YES, FOR OUR NEXT EXHIBITION.

HEY, WHY DON'T YOU COME SEE THE ART ROOM SOMETIME?

I'D LIKE TO CHAT MORE...

...AND I'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU AS A MODEL.

SO, KATOU-SAN...

...ABOUT YESTERDAY...

IF YOU EVER TELL ANYONE, I'LL KILL YOU.

SEE YOU LATER! YOU ARE WELCOME ANYTIME.

OKAY, MEGUMI-SAN?

Y-YEAH ...?

A-AKI-KUN...

GATA (SHUDDER)

GATA

THAT WAS SCARY! THAT WAS SO SCARY...!

I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY WAY I CAN TOP SAWA-MURA-SAN...

WELL, YOU DON'T NEED TO TOP ANYONE WITH SUCH A WEIRD PERSONALITY ANYWAY.

★ RESULT OF THE ALL-NIGHTER ★

MEGUMI BECAME THE TARGET OF ERIRI'S WATCHFUL EYE.

END

How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

ONCE AGAIN, IT'S SATURDAY.

9:03

AND ONCE AGAIN, MEGUMI HAS UNDER-SLEPT.

HEY!

MORNING. -YAWN-

YOU SEEM SLEEPY.

I ONLY SLEPT TWO HOURS!

SO, WHERE DID YOU SAY WE'RE GOING?

WA-GOUSHI CITY.

YOU NEED TO WATCH YOUR MAKEUP YOU'RE GOING TO BE THE MAIN HEROINE.

BUT— THAT'S IN THE NEXT PREFEC-TURE!

YIKES! THE TICKET'S EXPENSIVE!

I TOLD YOU YESTERDAY IT WAS A LONG RIDE, DIDN'T I?

TO WA-GOU-SHI!

CHAPTER

5

PUSHAAA (PSSHH?)

SUPA (BLUNT)

NO.

OKAY, GUESS NOT.

YOU KNOW, THE TWO OF US HEADING OFF ON A TRAIN TOGETHER SEEMS KIND OF LIKE A DATE, HUH?

IF THIS WERE HAPPENING IN A DATING SIM...

IN A CERTAIN SENSE, THIS REALLY IS AN IDEAL FRIEND-SHIP.

I FLATLY CONTRA-DICTED HER, BUT SHE DIDN'T EVEN CARE AND STRAIGHT-UP AGREED.

POWAWAWAWA (BLUSH)

CHIRA (GLANCE)

GATATAN (KAKLAK)

I'M SORRY FOR MAKING YOU COME SO FAR AND PAY SO MUCH FOR A TICKET.

IT'S FINE!

I DIDN'T HAVE PLANS ANY-WAY.

GATATAN

WH-WHY ARE YOU SO QUIET? SAY SOME-THING!

O-OH YEAH, RIGHT.

GATATAN

GATAN

...IT WAS THE FIRST TIME YOU ASKED ME OUT, TOMOYA-KUN.

GATAN (KLAK)

PLUS...

GATATAN

PLUS ...?

KAAAAA (BLUSH)

SORRY, BUT IT WAS SO NOISY, I COULDN'T HEAR YOU.

HUH!? I-I-IT WAS NOTHING!

...

OH!

...THAT'S KIND OF LIKE A DATE, HUH!?

OH!

BUT WHEN TWO PEOPLE GO OUT TOGETHER AS A PAIR FOR OVER AN HOUR...

POFUU (POOHF)

MEG— OOF!

ACK! PRETEND I DIDN'T JUST SAY THAT!

There was a citrusy, bittersweet fragrance from the beret she anxiously shoved in my face. Even though she said she wasn't good with perfumes...Oh, Megumi...!

GATATAN

YEAH ...

O-OF COURSE.

THESE DELUSIONS ABOUT HER HAVING A MAX LIKABILITY SCORE... IS IT A BUILDUP...

...OF FRUSTRATION ON MY PART...?

GATATAN

BACK TO REALITY

OH! YEAH! Y-YOU'RE RIGHT!

IT'S GOING TO BE OVER AN HOUR!

WHY ARE YOU SO QUIET? SAY SOME-THING!

METRONOME IN LOVE!

THE LIGHT NOVELS ...

...THAT I LENT YOU YESTER-DAY?

AH, DID YOU FINISH ALL OF IT?

HUH?

YOU REALLY ARE A GOOD SPORT, AREN'T YOU?

HER BEING A PUSH-OVER COMES IN HANDY SOME-TIMES...

THERE WERE FIVE ALL TOGETHER.

THAT'S WHY I'M SO SLEEPY.

!

OH! I READ ALL OF THEM.

WHOA, YOU REALLY READ THEM ALL THROUGH TO THE END?

I MEAN, THEY WERE SO GRIPPING, I COULDN'T EVEN FIND THE TIME TO SLEEP!

!

!!

THANKS FOR THE REC!

...I SEE...

I...

I THOUGHT EVERY LIGHT NOVEL WAS AIMED AT MEN.

BUT EVEN GIRLS WOULD CRY READING THESE.

RIGHT! SO YOU DID CRY, HUH!?

I'VE BEEN FEELING BAD ABOUT MY PREJUDICE AGAINST DATING SIMS LATELY TOO.

K-KATOU...! YOU'RE REALLY QUITE...

ALTHOUGH, IT WOULD HELP IF THEY WERE EASIER TO GET.

I WOULD'VE BEEN HAPPY IF SHE'D ONLY READ THE FIRST VOLUME BY TODAY.

BUT I NEVER EXPECTED SUCH AN IDEAL OUTCOME!!!

ANYWAY, CAN I BORROW THEM A BIT LONGER?

I WANT TO READ THEM AGAIN, TAKING MY TIME.

BABA (WHOO)

OF COURSE! OF COURSE!

YOU DON'T NEED TO RETURN THEM AT ALL!

THOSE ONES ARE FOR SPREADING THE WORD ANYWAY!

I STILL HAVE TWO OTHER SETS— ONE FOR READING AND ONE FOR SAFE-KEEPING!

DON'T HESITATE! I CAN BUY ANOTHER SET FOR LENDING LATER!

I... I SEE. THANKS ...

SO, WHAT DID YOU LIKE ABOUT IT?

NO— TELL ME WHAT YOU DIDN'T LIKE ABOUT IT TOO!

OH. HM.

WELLL ...

HM, YES.

WHERE TO START ...?

HURRY UP! THE MOST IMPORTANT THING OF ALL IS YOUR VOICE WHEN IT'S STILL FRESH FROM READING AND YOUR PASSION HASN'T COOLED OFF YET!

GATATAN (KATAK)

GATATAN

AH! AKI-KUN ...?

WELL, HERE WE ARE.

SIGNS: CHOUBUNDOU BOOKSTORE

帖文堂書店

TODAY'S DESTINATION—

CHOUBUNDOU BOOKSTORE!

WE GOT HERE IN NO TIME!

THAT MAY BE TRUE FROM YOUR POINT OF VIEW, AKI-KUN.

BUT HAVING TO TALK ABOUT THAT BOOK .. ACTUALLY, THAT SPECIFIC SCENE .. FOR AN HOUR ..

R R R ...

WELL, I COULD TALK ABOUT IT FOR THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS.

EVEN IF I SPENT MY LIFE AT IT, I COULD NEVER BE AN OTAKU LIKE YOU, AKI-KUN.

TRY TO GET MORE EXCITED, WITHOUT SAYING STUFF LIKE THAT.

AFTER ALL, THIS IS...

...MET-RONOME IN LOVE SACRED GROUND!

THIS BOOK-SHOP IS THE PLACE WHERE THE HERO AND THE HEROINE HAD THEIR FATEFUL MEETING!

OH, IT'S TRUE... FROM VOLUME 1...

YES! IF YOU LOOK AROUND, YOU CAN SEE THE SCENERY FROM THE COLOR INSERT OF VOLUME 1 ALL OVER.

SEE? THAT PARK BENCH THERE IS WHERE THE FINAL KISS SCENE HAP-PENED.

SU (SHIFT)

AND THIS CHOUBUNDOU BOOKSTORE HOLY LAND...

...IS THE LOCATION OF TODAY'S FINAL AND ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE ...

UTAKO KASUMI SIGNING

BUT HE BROKE UP WITH THE GIRL HE MET AT THIS SHOP, RIGHT?

THE AUTHOR DID A VERY RADICAL THING THERE.

WELL, YES.

IN THE END, HE CHOSE THE HEROINE WHO FIRST APPEARED IN THE SECOND VOLUME— IT CAUSED A BIG UPROAR ON THE NET.

...for author Utako Kasumi's signing event!

FINAL VOLUME RELEASE SPECIAL EVENT

KASUMI SIGNING

Now, please put your hands together...

!!!

RIGHT!?

BUT I'M SO EXCITED THAT I'LL GET TO MEET THE CREATOR OF SOMETHING I ENJOYED SO MUCH!

THANK YOU!

WELL, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT REFUSE.

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU'D GET SO INTO IT.

WOW.

YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME THERE WAS GOING TO BE A SIGNING!

HMM...

WELL, YOU'LL SEE SOON ENOUGH.

SO, WHAT IS THIS UTAKO KASUMI-SENSEI LIKE?

THERE ARE TOO MANY PEOPLE— I CAN'T SEE HER...

...

HUH ...?

METRONOME IN LOVE

SHE'S SUCH AN UNDERSTANDING PERSON!

KATOU... TODAY, YOU'VE BEEN TRULY... TRULY...

...HUH?

METRONOME
IN LOVE
FINAL VOLUME
RELEASE
SPECIAL
UTAKO
KASUM
SIGNIN

RINRI-KUN?

KASUMI-GAOKA-SENPAI?

SO, ONCE AGAIN ...

WcD

...I PRESENT THIRD-YEAR, CLASS C'S...

... UTAHA KASUMIGAOKA-SENPAI.

SHE'S CONSISTENTLY HAD TOP SCORES EVER SINCE STARTING AT THE TOYOGASAKI ACADEMY. SHE'S BRILLIANT.

SHARAN (SPARKLE)

AND HER PEN NAME IS UTAKO KASUMI.

SHE'S AN UP-AND-COMING POPULAR LIGHT NOVELIST AND STILL A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT. THE FIVE VOLUMES OF HER DEBUT WORK, *METRONOME IN LOVE*, HAVE SOLD OVER 500,000 UNITS ALL TOGETHER.

AND SO NOW WE CAN SPEAK FREELY ...

SHHIN (SILENCE)

... WHOA.

AND THIS IS MEGUMI KATOU, SECOND-YEAR, CLASS B.

SHE HAS NO CHARACTERISTICS WORTH MENTIONING.

TEEEN (PEEP)

Hey, hey, Aki-kun...

HISO ひそ

But why? It's so weird.

HISO ひそ

Hey, there's no point asking me about it.

HISO (WHISPER) ひそ

Besides, it's rude to say she has an odd career right in front of her!

HISO ひそ

...

No, I mean you're weird, Aki-kun!

A popular illustrator and a successfu author ..

Is everyone around you so amazing?

SU (SHIFF)

On that point, because of you, Katou, with your lack of remarkab e character-istics, it's al balanced, see——

FUU (PUFF)

EEEEEEEEE!?

HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA FLIRT WITH HER?

AND RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOUR EX.

KOOOOOOOO (RUMBLE)

STOP TRYING TO CREATE A MIS-UNDER-STAND-ING!

AND STOP SPOUTING THAT CARELESS NONSENSE TOO!

SO WHAT DID YOU COME ALL THIS WAY FOR, RINRI-KUN?

DID YOU REALLY WANT TO SHOW OFF YOUR NEW GIRLFRIEND THAT BADLY?

(STARE)

SEE THAT PACK OF THREE BOYS BY THE WINDOW?

THEY WERE RIGHT THERE IN THE FRONT ROW AT THE SIGNING.

THEN THOSE GUYS ARE THE LEAST OKAY!

THEY'RE STARING AT YOU WITH BATED BREATH!

COME ON, YOU'RE A FAMOUS PERSON AROUND HERE.

CHIRA (GLANCE)

IT'S OKAY. NO ONE WILL CARE.

FOR INSTANCE, LOOK—

TSUN (TAP)

SO THEN, YOU'RE AIMING FOR THE NAOKI PRIZE, NOT THE FANTASTIC AWARD, HUH?

BUT I BELIEVE BECOMING A TOPIC OF RELATIONSHIP RUMORS LIKE THIS IS WHAT HELPS ME SELL AS AN AUTHOR.

SFX: PORI (SCRATCH) PORI

AND IF I SAY I'M ACTUALLY A VIRGIN -BLUSH- ...

... PEOPLE WOULD IMMEDIATELY SEE ME AS A MOE CHARACTER!

A VIRGIN THAT UN-NATURAL WOULD BE EXPOSED IN SECONDS!

AND HOW WOULD YOU PROVE IT ANY-WAY!?

THESE HORRIFYINGLY EVIL UNTRUTHS AND HARSH WORDS...!

ぽ

ぽ

THIS IS ALSO A STRONG ATTRIBUTE.

BUT UNLIKE ERIRI, THERE'S THE DANGER OF NOT KNOWING WHERE SHE'S GOING TO FLY OFF TO NEXT.

WOULD YOU PLEASE DROP THE EX-GIRL-FRIEND ROUTINE, SENPAI!?

TO THE WOMAN YOU DUMPED?

SO WHY DID YOU COME HERE?

I HAD NO IDEA SHE WAS YOUR EX-GIRL-FRIEND, AKI-KUN...

DID YOU JUST HEAR A WORD I SAID?

YEAH. SHE'S ACTUALLY WICKED AND A LIAR WHO CRUSHES WITH HER WORDS AND PERSONALITY. YOU DIDN'T KNOW SHE GETS A KICK OUT OF THIS, DID YOU?

H-HEY, AKI-KUN ...?

SHE'S ...

GOSO (RUSTLE)

IN THAT CASE, YOU DIDN'T NEED TO COME ALL THIS WAY.

WELL ...

...TO BE HONEST, HALF MY OBJEC-TIVE WAS THE SIGNING.

HUH?

SO YOU KNEW ALL THIS TIME.

I THINK I'VE WORKED IT OUT.

THIS IS ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO GET ME ON YOUR DATING SIM, RIGHT?

IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS OF HARD WORK FOR YOU.

CONGRATULATIONS ON COMPLETING *METRONOME IN LOVE!*

SENPAI!

SHE'S NORMALLY SO CURT THAT THIS MAKES HER LOOK EXTRA-CUTE.

OH! HER TRUE SELF!

I GOT TWO LOTTERY TICKETS AND SCORED TWO "C" PRIZES.

...BUT, WHAT'S THIS HALF-ASSED FIGURE?

GEE, THANKS.

TH...

...ANK YOU...

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE FINAL VOLUME GOING ON SALE.

I STARTED READING IT FROM VOLUME ONE YESTERDAY.

I WAS SO ENGROSSED, I READ THE WHOLE SERIES IN ONE SITTING.

U-UM, KASUMIGAOKA-SENPA ...

I MEAN, UH...

YOU CAN CALL ME SENPAI.

AND, UH, YOU'RE KATOU, RIGHT?

YES.

KOOOOOO (RUMBLE)

THAT WOULDN'T BE A COMPLIMENT, AND THAT'S NOT WHAT SHE SAID ANYWAY.

...FOR THE COMPLIMENT ABOUT MY WORK BEING SUCH FLUFF THAT YOU CAN READ IT IN ONE NIGHT.

THANK YOU ...

UMM... THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR AUTOGRAPH TODAY!

METRONOME IN LOVE

UTAKO KASUMI

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER GOTTEN ONE...

...SO I'LL TREAT IT WITH CARE!

.....

I'M SORRY, BUT GIVE ME BACK THAT BOOK.

HUH!?

BUT WHY ...?

SENPAI, THIS IS REALLY GOING TOO—

I NEED TO REDO IT.

?

REDO WHAT ...?

OH, THIS SIGNA-TURE!

SHOUJI GATOU

IT'S SOME-ONE ELSE'S!

WHOA! AND MINE SAYS "BURIKI"!

WELL, THAT DOESN'T MATTER.

IT DOES MATTER! IF I'D SHOWN THIS OFF TO A FRIEND, I WOULD'VE BEEN SO EMBAR-RASSED!

THANK YOU FOR COMING ALL THIS WAY TO A SIGNING BY A LOWLY AUTHOR.

BRAZENLY SAYING SOME-THING SHE DOESN'T REMOTELY BELIEVE AGAIN...

THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL!

SO MANY PEOPLE CAME TO SEE YOU TODAY!

R-REALLY?

Y-YEAH.

IT SEEMS TO BE SUPER-POPULAR ON THE NET TOO.

I HEARD LOTS OF PEOPLE SAYING IT'S THE BEST RECENT ROMANTIC COMEDY, YOU KNOW.

ALTHOUGH, MAYBE SHE'S JUST IMMUNE TO SENPAI'S PLAY-ACTING.

SHE DIS-AGREED SO SINCERELY. SHE'S EVEN PURER THAN I THOUGHT.

AND I FOUND THIS ONE FANSITE THAT WAS REALLY CRAZY...

IF YOU SEARCH FOR YOUR PEN NAME, IT'S THE ONE THAT COMES UP FIRST, SO MAYBE YOU'VE SEEN IT TOO, SENPAI.

OH NO! NOW SHE'S EXPOSING THE IMPURE HEARTS OF SENPAI AND I!

U-UH-HUH.

TH-THANKS.

ERR

A FANSITE, YOU SAY ...?

...

I SEE. OVER-FLOWING.

IT'S JUST OVER-FLOWING WITH LOVE FOR YOUR WORK.

THE INTRODUCTORY PIECE WRITTEN BY THE ADMIN, TAKI-SAN, IS SO PASSIONATE.

HA... HA HA ...

I SEE. YOU LAUGHED, HUH...? HEH-HEH-HEH.

HE'S SO OB-SESSED, I LAUGHED READING IT.

HE'S SO IN SYNC WITH YOUR PROTAGO-NIST, HIS FAVORITE HEROINE CHANGED AS EACH VOLUME CAME OUT!

MAKING READERS GET SO INTO IT IS PROOF OF THE POWER YOUR WORK HAS.

OH, THAT'S JUST ME PARROTING WHAT THE SITE ADMIN WROTE THOUGH.

YES, INDEED. ENVIOUS... HEH-HEH-HEH.

AH HA HA HA.

BUT IT MAKES ME A BIT ENVIOUS TOO THAT HE FOUND SOMETHING HE COULD FEEL THAT INTENSE ABOUT.

AH-HA! AH- HA-HA! AH-HA- HA-HA- HA-HA!

HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH!

WAS WHAT I SAID THAT ODD?

NO, THAT WAS ALL VERY NICE TO HEAR, RIGHT? HEH-HEH-HEH!

I-IT WASN'T ODD. NOT ODD AT ALL...

AH-HA-HA-HA-HAHH...

THIS IS THE PINNACLE OF AWKWARD-NESS!

TAKI = TOMOYA AKI IS THE SIMPLEST OF RIDDLES!

THAT'S YOUR SITE, AKI-KUN?

WELL ...

PLEASE UNDERSTAND, KATOU! I TOO HAVE A SENSE OF SHAME!

DARA (DRIP)

DARA

DARA

BUT I'M VERY INTER-ESTED TO KNOW HOW HE FELT ABOUT THAT FINAL SCENE.

UNFOR-TUNATELY, HE STILL HASN'T POSTED HIS THOUGHTS ABOUT THE FINAL VOLUME YET.

HEAR THAT, RINRI-KUN?

I'M SORRY. I HAVE BEEN NEGLI-GENT OF LATE...

THE START OF THE WEEK, FOR SURE.

... HUH?

LIKE A STORY LINE IN AN EROTIC GAME?

SEE, WITH THE ADDITIONAL DETAIL THAT WE KNOW EACH OTHER, IT MAKES IT MORE REALISTIC, DON'T YOU THINK?

STOP DIGGING YOURSELF IN DEEPER AND STIRRING THINGS UP MORE!

HANG ON! WHY ARE WE BACK TO THAT AGAIN!?

WELL, AKI-KUN, YOU'RE SENPAI'S NUMBER ONE FAN, RIGHT?

SO DID YOU TWO REALLY GO OUT ...?

I GOT SORTA OBSESSED WITH HER WORK, AND SORTA SET UP THE SITE, AND THE AUTHOR SORTA TURNED OUT TO BE A SENPAI AT THE SAME SCHOOL, AND THAT'S IT!

WELL, JUST A TINY BIT!

BUT THE MORE I HEAR, THE MORE IT FEELS LIKE YOU SHARE A PAST. AM I IMAGINING IT?

SEE? WHEN IT COMES TO IMPORTANT THINGS, HE'S USELESS LIKE THIS.

YOU'D BETTER WATCH YOURSELF TOO, OKAY?

SO THEN YOU REALLY ...?

YEAH, I'M SURE YOU SAID SOMETHING LIKE THAT OUR FIRST TIME.

"JUST THE TIP," YOU SAID.

I DIDN'T EVEN PUT THE TIP IN!

NO— I MEAN, I NEVER EVEN SAID SUCH A THING!

I WAS TALKING ABOUT YOUR WORK!

THIS IS WHY I HATE THE REAL WORLD!

AND THEN WHEN A BOY WHO CALLS HIMSELF A PASSIONATE FAN SHOWS UP RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU...

...AND TALKS ABOUT YOU SO INTENSELY, WELL, IT JUST MAKES YOUR HEAD SWIM, DOESN'T IT?

WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WHEN YOU'RE CREATING ROMANCES, YOU NEED TO ACCUMULATE A LOT OF RESEARCH IN THAT AREA, RIGHT?

AND I'M NOT OLD ENOUGH TO HAVE AMASSED THAT MUCH LIFE EXPERIENCE MYSELF.

AAAAH!

WAS IT REALLY THAT INFLUENTIAL?

I HATE IT WHEN YOU'RE SO CALCULATING.

THIS SENSE OF FOREBODING IS THE WORST ...!

WHAT'S MORE, THANKS TO THAT SITE, MY SALES IMPROVED 30%, AND WHEN MY EDITOR TOLD ME THAT, I COULDN'T REALLY REGRET IT, COULD I?

AAAAHHH!

AND SO, I WAS TOTALLY OKAY WITH DOING IT, BUT RINRI-KUN HERE...

AAAAH!

HEY, DID I JUST HEAR "EX-GIRLFRIEND" OR SOMETHING?

HIM? THAT DUDE THERE?

THERE'S NO POINT TRYING TO DEAL WITH THE SNEERS OF GUYS WHO SLEEP AROUND!

AAAAAAAAAH!

ALL OF THE CHARACTERS HERE ARE UNDER EIGHTEEN!

IT'S JUST AN URBAN LEGEND THAT VIRGINS OR MAIDENS CAN'T WRITE ROMANCES IN THE FIRST PLACE!

IT IS PRECISELY THE EXPLOSION OF LONGING, IDEALS, AND FANTASIES BY VIRGINS TOWARD THAT ZONE OF THE UNKNOWN THAT ATTRACTS A VIRGINAL AUDIENCE LIKE CRAZY! ALTHOUGH, I DON'T KNOW HOW VIRGIN GIRLS WOULD FEEL!

AND IF, INCIDENTALLY, THE AUTHOR IS A VIRGIN, THE AUDIENCE WILL BE PLUNGED INTO AN EVEN DEEPER LEVEL OF FANTASY— IT WOULD BE THE ULTIMATE!

ALSO, IF IT GETS TURNED INTO AN ANIME, WHAT IF THE VOICE ACTRESS FOR THE HEROINE WAS ALSO A VIRGIN ...!?

IT'S ABOUT TIME EDITORIAL PUT A STOP TO YOUR SPEECH.

HNZZ!

HNZZ!

HNZZ!

...WHERE ARE YOU GOING ...?

AKI-KUN, AKI-KUN ...

I'M SORRY! I'LL UPDATE THE SITE! PLEASE DON'T SPREAD ANY MORE LIES!

HIS EYES WILL MOVE ON TO THE NEXT SUBJECT OF HIS FERVOR, YOU SEE?

HE MAY SHOWER YOU WITH ATTENTION FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS, BUT NEXT YEAR, HE'LL BE ONTO THE NEXT GIRL. .

HUH? OF WHAT ...?

ANYWAY, YOU NEED TO BE CAREFUL TOO, KATOU-SAN.

...

SO, WHY ARE YOU GOING ALONG WITH HIS CRAZY SCHEME?

"LET'S MAKE A DATING SIM WITH YOU AS THE HEROINE*— THAT'S LIKE BOILING-OVER-WITH-PASSION LEVEL STUFF, YOU KNOW?

UH...UM, SENPAI ...

HE'S NOT INTERESTED IN ME IN THE FIRST PLACE.

...I THINK MAYBE AKI-KUN MIGHT NOT BE LIKE THAT THIS TIME.

NO, THAT'S NOT IT.

BUT MAYBE I'M NOT AS PESSIMISTIC AS YOU AND SAWAMURA-SAN, SENPAI?

SO YOU EMPATHIZED WITH HIS PASSION—HEH—FOR CREATING THE GAME?

WELL, IT SOUNDED INTERESTING ENOUGH, AND I'VE GOT THE TIME.

DO YOU THINK HIS PROJECT WILL BE SUCCESS-FUL?

.....

SO... YOU HAVE FAITH IN HIM?

HMM. I'M NOT REALLY SURE!

...BUT I FEEL LIKE JUST MAYBE, WITH AKI-KUN'S DRIVE, SOMETHING INTERESTING MAY COME OF IT.

WHY?

HUH? IN AKI-KUN?

?

GAKUHAI (SLUMP)

THIS IS IMPORTANT. DON'T ACT ALL CUTE AND STUPEFIED.

HUH?

HUH?

SAY, RINRI-KUN, THIS GIRL DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY LOGIC?

MAYBE YOUR "I'LL MAKE YOU A HEROINE, SO YOU KNOW WHAT COMES LATER, RIGHT? HEH-HEH-HEH!" STRATEGY WILL WORK ON HER.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TRYING TO DO IN THE FIRST PLACE!

IS THAT WHY SHE DIDN'T REACT EVEN WHEN PROVOKED? A CERTAIN CHILDHOOD FRIEND OF YOURS GOT COMPLETELY PISSED OFF THOUGH.

UM, TO GO OFF-TOPIC, WHO WAS THIS CHILDHOOD FRIEND . . .?

IF IT'S OFF-TOPIC, THEN WHY ASK!?

AKI-KUN, I JUST NEED TO STEP INTO THE CON-VENIENCE STORE.

OKAY.

ARE YOU REALLY INTENDING TO TURN THAT GIRL INTO YOUR HEROINE?

WELL... YEAH. SORTA.

...

HEY, TOMOYA-KUN.

...HUH? OH! ME?

TOMOYA-KUN?

THAT INCREDIBLE DISINTEREST IS STIRRING UP MY UNEASE.

YEAH. YES, YES.

HUH?

...OH. YEAH.

BECAUSE YOU'RE INFATUATED WITH HER?

YOU'RE TRYING TO CREATE SOMETHING CAPTIVATING OUT OF A GIRL YOU "MAY" HAVE LIKED SO YOU CAN IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE SELF-SATISFACTION THAT YOUR OWN SENSE OF AESTHETICS IS NOT WRONG?

ZUN (THOOM)

IN OTHER WORDS, WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO IS SIMPLY COMPENSATORY BEHAVIOR.

AUGH!

IT WAS DEFINITELY LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT AT FIRST... BUT...

YEAH... THAT'S WHAT GOT ME STARTED ON THIS WHOLE PROJECT.

IT'S JUST THAT MY MOTIVATION IS SHIFTING IN AN UNEXPECTED DIRECTION.

UTAHA-SENPAI ...

WELL, IN ANY CASE, AS IT STANDS, NEITHER SAWAMURA-SAN NOR MYSELF ARE GOING TO HELP YOU, RIGHT?

KATOU IS GOOD MATERIAL IF WE CAN BUILD A CHARACTER OUT OF HER—

DOES THIS CONVERSATION REALLY NEED THE FIRST HALF OF WHAT YOU JUST SAID?

I CAN SEE FAR TOO CLEARLY THAT SOMETHING IS LACKING

IT'S NOT THAT I'M UPSET YOU'RE ASKING ME FOR THIS NOW...

IT'S JUST...

SO THEN WHAT ...?

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN.

THE THING YOU TWO ARE LACKING IS—

...

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, AKI-KUN!

TO BE CONTINUED

祝! コミック発売!!

REJOICE!
THE COMIC IS OUT!

THANK YOU FOR BUYING THIS BOOK. THE CHARACTERS ARE JUST AS ADORABLE AS IN THE ORIGINAL. AND I'M SELF-CONFIDENT (OR SELF-HATING?) THAT THE STORY IS EASIER TO UNDERSTAND AND FUNNIER IN MORIKI-SAN'S VERSION OF HOW TO RAISE A BORING GIRLFRIEND. I HOPE YOU CONTINUE TO ENJOY SEEING KATOU GO FROM CORNER TO CORNER OF THE PAGES LIKE A CUTE HAMSTER. (I GUARANTEE SHE'LL NEVER BE SHOWCASED IN THE MIDDLE OF A PAGE. SO PLEASE REST ASSURED.)

FUMIAKI MARUTO

HOW TO RAISE A BORING GIRLFRIEND 1

WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED IT!
AND THANK YOU!

SPECIAL THANKS
MR. ENDO
EDITOR K-SAMA

THE "MEGU-TAN, IF YOU CAN'T HAVE A PERSONALITY THAT STANDS OUT RIGHT AWAY, THEN WHY NOT WORK ON YOUR APPEARANCE FIRST?" SECTION ☆

PART 1 AS A MAID♡

TRANSLATION NOTES

PAGE 15
Rinri in **Rinri-*kun***, Utaha's nickname for Aki, means "ethics, morals." The kanji for *tomo* in Tomoya can also be read as *rin*.

PAGE 19
Aki might not be able to **count the negatives**, but there are six total, so ultimately, Utaha does feel a modicum of sympathy for him.

PAGE 35
Imperial GoLion is a play on the anime series, *Beast King GoLion* (*Hyakujuuou GoRaion*), which achieved considerable popularity in the West under the title *Voltron*. Aki is letting his hardcore *otaku* shine by collecting this box set, as the series isn't particularly popular in Japan anymore.

PAGE 35
Nen●●roid stands for Nendoroid, a line of plastic figures with overly large heads produced by the Good Smile Company.

PAGE 59
Moe is a word that describes feelings of attraction or affection, usually toward anime, manga, or video game characters. It is also used to describe a genre of manga, anime, and games specifically intended to inspire such feelings.

PAGE 72
Twintails is the Japanese term for pigtails. Twintails are a characteristic common to *moe* characters and are beloved by fans of *moe*. There's even an official twintail appreciation society called the Japan Twintail Association.

COMMON HONORIFICS
no honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.
***-san*: The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.**
***-sama*: Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.**
***-kun*: Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.**
***-chan* (also *-tan*): An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls; also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.**
***-senpai*: An honorific used to address upperclassmen or more experienced coworkers.**
***-sensei*: A respectful honorific for teachers, artists, or high-level professionals.**

PAGE 9
Doujinshi (often shortened to *doujin*) is self-published art, comics, video games, or novels produced (usually) by amateurs and often derived from existing properties. The *doujin* market in Japan is massive, despite the fact that derivative *doujin* is technically in violation of copyright and, therefore, illegal.

PAGE 11
Neighborhood Council's Decisions is a play on *Student Council's Discretion* (*Seitokai no Ichizon*), a light novel—shorter pop fiction aimed at the young adult market—series by Aoi Sekina. The plot features an academy where the student council is chosen via popularity contest.

TRANSLATION NOTES

PAGE 81
Yorimeki Memorial is a play on the classic, popular Japanese dating sim series *Tokimeki Memorial*. The game has gone on to spawn a host of sequels and spinoffs. *Tokimeki* is the Japanese word for "heartthrob."

PAGE 86
Katou's idea of a stereotypical *otaku* in the original volume includes the assumption on her part that all *otaku* use the honorific *-dono* ("lord") when addressing other people This is typically *-shi* ("sir, mister"). Also, she assumes that otaku end their sentences in *dao*, which is portmanteau of *da yo* (a typical colloquial sentence ending).

PAGE 94
Koshien, short for Hanshin Koshien Stadium, is a baseball stadium where the national high school baseball championships are held. Making it to Koshien is kind of like the holy grail for a high school athlete.

PAGE 99
The anime series that Aki loans Eriri is supposed to be ***Is This a Zombie?*** (*Kore wa Zonbi Desu Ka?*), an anime adaptation of a light novel series by Shinichi Kimura about a zombie boy who unwittingly steals a magical girl's powers and is made to transform into a magical girl himself.

PAGE 99
Aki's addition to the *Is This a Zombie?* DVD case of **"Yes, it's George A. Romero's masterpiece"** indicates that he has replaced the contents with the classic zombie apocalypse horror film, *Night of the Living Dead*, directed by Romero.

PAGE 105
fi●ma stands for figma, a line of action figures with posable joints produced by the Max Factory company. The particular figure being tossed around here is of Haruna, one of the main characters in Kimura's *Is This a Zombie?* series, whose powers end up transferring to the series protagonist.

PAGE 105
Tsundere is a compound term derived from the words *tsuntsun* ("disdainful, prickly") and *deredere* ("affectionate, fawning") that refers to a person who is initially abrasive or combative but softens over time or reveals a warm inner nature.

PAGE 110
A **circle** is a club or group (or sometimes a single person with their own brand/handle) producing *doujinshi*.

PAGE 110
Comiket, a portmanteau of Comic Market, is the world's largest *doujinshi* fair. Founded in 1975, it is now held twice a year (August and December) in Tokyo and draws crowds exceeding 500,000 heads per show.

PAGE 114
The **mosaicked art** here is common in Japanese anime, manga, and even pornography, where genitals and the like are blurred over to conform to Japan's obscenity laws.

TRANSLATION NOTES

PAGE 116
The **series** shown here include *Rabu★Kira*, *Is This a Zombie?*, and a *Monthly Dragon Age* magazine with *Triage X* on the cover. *Rabu★Kira* may be a play on *Love Hina*, Ken Akamatsu's manga series about a boy's attempt to rekindle romance with his childhood friend. *Monthly Dragon Age* is a manga anthology magazine edited by Fujimi Shobo and published by Kadokawa Corporation, in which *Triage X*, a manga series by Shouji Sato about a vigilante organization at a general hospital, is serialized. The final book in the panel reads *Pai-otsu*, with *pai* being a pun on the Japanese word for "breasts" (*oppai*) and *otsu*, which means "girl, woman."

PAGE 117
The *otaku* here are mumbling the names of popular manga and anime characters, among which are **Azu-meow** (Azusa Nakano) from *K-On!*, a manga series by kakifly about a high school band, and **Haruna** from *Is This a Zombie?*

PAGE 119
Kata●●●●-san probably refers to Ayako Katagiri one of the potential love interests and an art student from the dating sim *Tokimeki Memorial*.

PAGE 122
A **virtual idol** is, as the term implies, a digitally created humanoid singer/persona. The most famous among these is Miku Hatsune, who has even appeared on the *Late Show with David Letterman*. **Vocaloid** is a singing voice synthesizer developed by Yamaha, often used to give voice to virtual idols. The term is also used to refer to the virtual idols themselves. **3D Cu●●●m Girl** stands for "3D Custom Girl," a "game" developed by TechArts3D for designing 3-D models of female characters.

PAGE 123
The **National Stadium** was located in Shinjuku, Tokyo, and served as the venue for both national and international sporting events, including the 1964 Olympic Games. It was also used as home ground by the Japanese national soccer team. It was demolished in 2015 to make way for a new stadium to house the 2020 Summer Olympics.

PAGE 148
Established in 1935, the **Naoki Prize** is an award for popular literature that is presented twice annually. It was named in memory of novelist Sanjuugo Naoki.

PAGE 152
Utaha's faked signatures belong to actual creators. **Shouji Gatou** is the creator of the *Full Metal Panic!* series of light novels and manga. **Buriki** is an illustrator of light novels, including *Haganai: I Don't Have Many Friends* (*Boku wa Tomodachi ga Sukunai*).

How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

HOW TO RAISE A BORING GIRLFRIEND 1

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This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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